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FREE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

Community Center Ready for Action

By Frank Pizzoli

"The community center will reflect what individuals and organizations from the region make it," stressed Ted Martin, president, The LGBT Community Center Coalition.

The coalition hosted about 30 community leaders in order to explain the next phase of the group's activity. "Our next phase is to ask the community, our stakeholders and allies what kinds of programs they'd want a center to offer," Martin explains. Any individual or organization with a need or interest in programming is asked to simply make contact with the coalition.

"This is a chance for organizations and members of the community to come forward and mold a center's programming," Martin says. New programming can be established by working with the center's two professional staff or by becoming a volunteer.

Working on the center staff is Louie Marven, Director of Administration & Youth Services, and newcomer Sean Maloney, Interim Program Director.

"We've already started with some programs we know the community wanted,"

continued on page 31>

Judy Collins Sees Both Sides Now

"I'm a working girl," says the 1960s icon Judy Collins from her NYC abode. She performs Dec. 17, 8 p.m. at Harrisburg's Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts.

For more than 40 years Collins has charmed audiences with her folk trademark music. "I'm doing 80 to 100 shows a year," she says. She recently performed Wings of Angels, a song written about the loss of her son, on ABC's Good Morning America. The personal track is also a part of her newly released Wildflower CD and DVD — a culmination of a 25-city national tour, featuring guest artists Arlo Guthrie, Tom Rush, and Eric Andersen.

Collins debuted at age 13 with a performance of Mozart's Concerto for Two. "My folk roots were sparked by people like Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger," she explains. Collins moved from classical piano to the guitar when she released her debut, A Maid of Constant Sorrow, in 1961.

Collins' rendition of Joni Mitchell's Both Sides Now earned her a Grammy® Award for Best Folk Performance/ Folk Recording) and an induction into the Grammy® Hall of Fame. In 1975, her rendition of Send in the Clowns earned a Grammy® Award for Song of the Year.

A Judy Collins Christmas
December 17
Sunoco Performance Theater
Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts

At 70, Collins can see both sides of familiar issues. "I'm working on a book about my role in the 1960s," she says. Tom Brokaw's new book "Boom" mentions her along with a number of other figures from those days. "I testified at the Chicago 8 Trail and now I'm reading all I can about that period."

In addition to her music and current book underway, Collins has written two memoirs, including Trust Your Heart (1987) and Sanity and Grace (2003). "On tour in 1987 with 'Heart' I first noticed now nasty the political dialogue became," Collins notes in reference to today's raucous talking heads on TV.

As political as ever, she asks "Where is the Peace Movement today?" Collins surmises that with multiple media sources the rule, there is a great deal more social change underway than meet the eye. "Since the days of Walter Cronkite and the once-a-night news are long over and news is now absorbed from so many different sources, it's hard to figure out what's going on sometimes. Only events like Michael Jackson's death force all media outlets into the same story," she observes.

Young or old, folk music lovers will hear both 1960s classics and new songs by one the America's national treasures.

Bubbye to Bea
see p. 32

10 years after
see p. 15

On to the summit
see p. 22

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Walter Cronkite on Gay Marriage

By Mark Segal, PGN Publisher
Edited by Jason Villemez

Interview: Mark Segal met Cronkite when he disrupted the live broadcast of the CBS Evening News in December 1973 by holding a sign in front of Cronkite which read "Gays Protest CBS Prejudice.." They later became friends and this interview was recorded during one of their lunches. Walter Cronkite's candor surprised Segal who thought they were ahead of their time. Upon Cronkite's death it was pulled out of the drawer where it has resided for 13 years unpublished.

MS: What are your thoughts on gay marriage?

WC: I don't see why states should have any interest in gay marriage. That's not an issue that the state government or any government should be involved in. This is a personal question and should be solved on a personal basis, and I just don't believe the government has any role in it.

If there is an attempt to legislate against it, like the attempt to legislate against abortion, this is an interference of personal and civil rights that should be protested and contested. Short of that, the attitude ought to be, "Well, that's the way they feel. This doesn't have to be the way I feel, but, let's live and live together and accept these things."

So I think that I'm getting on very dangerous ground here, but I think there is a danger in trying to force an acceptance of your lifestyle. This ought to come through the more gradual educational process. But I don't want to sound like [Republican presidential candidate Steve] Forbes and abortion

It really isn't your business to sell this to the public. Educate the public. But don't try to sell it. And, and I think that there, sometimes the line is crossed there – that you're trying to propagandize the people to, to accept what, what you believe to be right. There is a fine line there between defense and aggression, and that line has to be very clearly defined and closely observed.

MS: Acceptance has been a long time coming, and we still have areas like the military where public support has risen but those in the leadership have not bought into the notion.

WC: In the military, I believe fully that, there again, it's a question of, of one's civil rights and one certainly should have the right to live as one chooses. The suggestion that homosexuality is somehow going to be forced upon the other members of the barracks seems to me to be a non-issue. It's just a ridiculous red herring.

I know that some of my friends in the military think it's a ridiculous issue to make, to make an issue of what could be, could be handled quite as easily, as well – open rights.

MS: The right wing has used us as an election ploy for years, but there have been and still are legitimate conservative extremists who wish violence upon the gay community. How should we deal with people like that?

WC: I think we all should be fearful of any issue regarding extremists – whether they're left or right. And certainly, I'd be very concerned, particularly if I were one of the minority group about this attempt to enforce a moral code through some misinterpretation of some religious beliefs. I'd be very worried about that. Yeah, I'd be concerned. I'm concerned about that kind of attitude from both left and right in the country – militants who are fanatic in their beliefs are dangerous wherever they lie.

I don't like the word "attack." I wouldn't "attack" anybody. That's certainly not necessarily, and probably counterproductive. But defense mechanism against the know-nothings in our world, certainly are required. There you have a duty to answer those arguments that are, to your mind, completely out of line. I think that that's fundamental – a fundamental right and a fundamental duty, a fundamental responsibility to what you believe in.

MS: What about demonstrations?

WC: There's no question that militant demonstrations offend a proportion of the population no matter what the subject matter is. There are people that would rather not be awakened to issues, rather not be bothered by issues, they do not like seeing the city streets used as theater for issues, and they are the people who do not understand the Constitution and the right to demonstrate. Those are the very ones, who, if you ask them if people have a right to demonstrate, if they said to you, "Do you believe in the Constitution? It says people have the right to express their opinion," they'd all say, "Oh, yes, absolutely." "Well, do they have the right to demonstrate in front of the White House?" "Oh, no! They shouldn't be doing that!"

People have a kind of, I guess, a cleavage between theory and what they really want to see happening on the streets. So, there's always going to be that resentment towards demonstrators, no matter if its gay-rights demonstrators or political, other issues. I don't think that you could make a judgment on the success of such a thing. You have to make a judgment on

Walter Cronkite

the basis of the entire approach, the public perceptions from the situation, as opposed to before such activity began, and I don't think there's any question that there's a very positive, educational effect.

Whatever can be done to educate the public to the nature of homosexuality, to the, to the rights, civil rights to those who have a different lifestyle than the majority, this sort of thing, this is what is required.

MS: What do you think of the gay movement now compared to it beginnings?

WC: It seems to me that the gay movement has been highly successful. I think there's much more awareness, obviously, of the issue in the country. It seems to me that the approval rating among the polls is good, and if that's the result, then the movement has been successful.

Conservative California Lawmaker Resigns Amid Sex Scandal

By Michael K. Lavers

Add former California Assemblymember Michael Duvall [R-Yorba Linda] to the ever-growing list of socially conservative lawmakers who amount to nothing more than self-righteous hypocrites!

Duvall resigned earlier today after a Los Angeles television station broadcast audio tapes of comments he made during a "committee meeting in Sacramento held earlier this summer" about having sex with two younger women. A hot microphone caught them on tape. And KCAL reporter Dave Lopez described both women as "married lobbyists in Sacramento."

Duvall backed Proposition 8, and garnered an endorsement from Capital Resources Institute. The organization was all too quick to distance itself from the scandal-plaque former legislator.

"It is always disappointing when a champion of traditional values does not practice the same in his private life," CRI executive director Karen England said. And this appears to be the case with Assemblyman Duvall. Assemblyman Duvall was one of just a few California legislators to receive a 100% on CRI's annual scorecard. But CRI only tabulates votes. It was left to Mr. Duvall to reveal if those values are part of his own life."

Duvall himself announced his resignation in a one paragraph statement, but Rick Jacobs of the Courage Campaign has called for state Attorney General Jerry Brown to launch an investigation.

"This isn't just a sex scandal, it's a corruption scandal," Jacobs said. "A vice-chairman of the Committee on Utilities and Commerce was literally in bed with Sempra Energy's lobbyist. Assemblyman Duvall's 'sex for votes' affairs have cheated Californians out of honest government. We call on the attorney general to investigate Mr. Duvall to see if he can be prosecuted for selling his votes."

Jacobs applauded Duvall's decision to resign, but he blasted the conservative organizations that backed him.

"If Assemblyman Duvall is who conservative groups hold up as their ideal legislator, it shows how shallow their standards are," Jacobs said. "While Assemblyman Duvall has been fighting to make marriage a privilege for heterosexual couples only, he's been making a mockery of the institution in the California State Assembly, bragging to other elected officials about raunchy details of his affairs."

Frank Pizzoli

LGBT Community Center Coalition Deserves Your Support

Be honest. How many times have you and your friends sat around wishing there was something to do? Well, wish no more. The newly forged LGBT Community Center Coalition now offers all sorts of community-based experiences. You can read about many of these fun activities inside the pages of this issue and every issue.

Visit their web site for all the details - www.centralpalgbtcenter.org.

According to their web site, The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Community Center Coalition is a volunteer-led effort to create a regionally representative community center that is both a location and a unifying point for Central Pennsylvania's large, diverse and multi-county LGBT population.

The mission of the center coalition is to create common ground for the lgbt community and allies in Central Pennsylvania by providing services through spiritual, educational and cultural activities that foster wholeness. They seek to:

- Create a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment
- Provide and support comprehensive programs throughout the community
- Embrace diversity, health and wellness

Like to read books? They offer a Book Club in three different locations throughout the region. The clubs meet monthly to discuss a different book each meeting. The center envisions these clubs as an important step toward creating common ground through providing educational programming to lgbt people and allies in central Pennsylvania. As a regionally representative center, the groups are held in York, Lancaster and Harrisburg.

Readers may contact 717-920-9534 if interested in helping to start another club in a different city in the region. This will be a great way to meet new people and get exposed to some of the vast collection of worthwhile LGBT-themed books.

Like the outdoors?

Central Pennsylvania is rich with natural resources, geographic diversity, and has a plethora of outdoor activities to partake in. The center has organized a group of people that will explore all that the region has to offer. Activities range from hiking to white water rafting, and from ghostly bus tours to skiing. All levels of skill and interest are welcome to join. Some programs may have small costs associated with them.

Like to speak in public?

The center recently introduced its "A Day in the Life …" series. This series starting in the fall will feature lgbt and ally professionals speaking on a variety of topics that are important to the lives of lgbt individuals and families. Topics will include things like estate planning, adoption, health care, and much more. All members of the community are welcome to come to this and participate in the important dialogue.

The goals of these workshops will be to better inform the participants of their rights, help them know how to best plan for the future, and answer questions that have been on many of our minds. There may be a cost associated with some of these seminars.

For more information please contact Sean Maloney, Interim Program Director, at smaloney@centralpglgbtcenter.org or at (717) 920-9534.

Want to support the center's work? Attend FAB Nov. 14. It'a great event, full of fun and entertainment!

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Central to your life.

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voice box

"Community Center
I had a really great time at recent events sponsored by The LGBT Community Center Coalition. Way to go! Finally something for everyone!

A Reader

Email your thoughts to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com

Equality Advocates PA Seats New Board

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania today announced several new members of the Board of Directors and the formation of Equality Pennsylvania, a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization whose purpose is to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Pennsylvanians through legislative and policy reform. Newly elected Equality Advocates Pennsylvania board members are from the Philadelphia, Scranton, Bloomsburg, and Pittsburgh areas.

"I am excited that such talented and committed individuals from across Pennsylvania have joined the Board of Directors," said Lynn Zeitlin, Executive Director of Equality Advocates Pennsylvania. "Their profound dedication to seeing this organization grow, and the skills each new board member brings to the table is humbling and exciting, and will benefit the thousands of Pennsylvanians we reach each and every year."

The first statewide board meeting was held on Saturday 26, 2009 in State College during the ground-breaking Pennsylvania Equality Summit. New members recently voted for the formation of Equality Pennsylvania, an umbrella 501(c)(4) organization that will allow staff, volunteers, and donors to have more state-wide influence and directly advocate for legislative and policy priorities for LGBT Pennsylvanians. Jake Kaskey has been named the Policy and Programs Director for Equality Pennsylvania and Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, and will lead and direct legislative and programming activities for both organizations. Mason Lane, recent graduate of Emory University, has been named Eastern Pennsylvania Field Organizer for Equality Pennsylvania.

Plans are underway for the opening of Equality Pennsylvania field offices in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg in 2010 to engage activists at a local-level and increase involvement in coalition-building and advocacy campaigns.

"Forming Equality Pennsylvania allows us to spend greater time and resources directly advocating for LGBT policy priorities in Harrisburg and across Pennsylvania," said Zeitlin. "We have launched an exciting new organization that will continue to build on the widespread coalition and organizing work for which we are known."

The new board members are Brian K. Sims, Esquire (President), Staff Counsel for Policy & Planning for the Philadelphia Bar Association; Mark L. Usry (Vice President), Associate Professor of Legal Studies at Bloomsburg University; Ann T. Loftus, Esquire (Treasurer), Partner at Zateeny Loftus LLP in Bala Cynwyd; Jay K. Meadway, Esquire (Secretary), Member of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLC; Jeff Brauer, Tenured Associate Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Advisor of OPEN/Gay-Straight Alliance at Keystone College in La Plume; Thomas C. Waters, Director of New Media, University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy; and M. Saida Agostini, MSW, Targeted Case Manager Supervisor for the Family Shelter Support Team in Philadelphia.

your voice

Drinking Water for 508,000 in PA at Risk

Analysis by the Environmental Protection Agency shows that drinking water supplies for at least 508,000 residents in Southeastern Pennsylvania are at risk of contamination from industrial pollution – and federal agencies like EPA may not have authority to stop it., according to League of America and National Wildlife Federation.

The goal of the landmark Clean Water Act, signed into law in 1972, was to "restore the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters." However, two recent Supreme Court decisions threaten to dramatically narrow the scope of the Clean Water Act by excluding non-navigable bodies of water such as small streams.

Small streams are essential sources of drinking water, supplying water for public systems across the country. The Environmental Protection Agency analyzed streams nationwide to pinpoint which ones fed public water supplies. The results: More than 117 million Americans get their drinking water from sources that may lose federal protection from pollution, including residents of

- Dauphin County (231,058 people)
- Lebanon County (57,000 people)
- Schuylkill County (86,337 people)
- Berks County (131,108 people)
- Perry County (2,812 people)

Conservation and sportsmen's groups are urging Congress to protect people and wildlife that depend on these at-risk waters. "By acting on legislation this fall," says Geoff Mullins, Policy Initiatives Manager for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, "the U.S. House of Representatives can take a major step forward to ensure our water is safe for drinking, fishing, and outdoor recreation."

"Restoring Clean Water Act protections isn't just important for waterfowl and wildlife – it's important to the families that are affected by polluted waters and need guarantees that their health won't be in jeopardy because of unprotected water sources," says Jan Goldman-Carter, Wetlands and Water Resources Counsel for the National Wildlife Federation. Dr. Scott Yaich, Director of Conservation Operations for Ducks Unlimited, concurs: "Guaranteeing protection for streams and wetlands under the Clean Water Act benefits everyone – from the families that drink the water to the waterfowl and wildlife that live it"

"Headwater streams, especially the intermittent and ephemeral streams that are dry for parts of the year, are the 'Rodney Dangerfields' of the water resource world: They don't get enough respect," says Steve Moyer, Vice President for Government Affairs for Trout Unlimited. "Yet the best science we have tells us how extremely valuable headwater streams are for drinking water, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. If the Clean Water Act's visionary goals are ever to be achieved, Congress must restore protection for these critical resources."

"We simply want to confirm the original intent of the Clean Water Act to protect the waterways that Americans use for drinking, swimming, and outdoor recreation," concludes Scott Kovarovics, Conservation Director for the Izaak Walton League of America. "Only Congress can amend the Clean Water Act to guarantee it protects streams that provide drinking water for more than 117 million Americans."

Information: League of America (301-548-0150 x 223), National Wildlife Federation (202-797-6894).

Cessation Efforts Up In Smoke

By Jennifer Hobbs, Gettysburg Hospital, Tobacco Cessation Education Counselor

Pennsylvania may at last have a budget, but it's not good news for many residents of Adams County. Harsh funding cuts, to the tune of $16.1 million, will directly affect local programs, including those providing tobacco prevention and cessation. Services that help residents to stop using tobacco products will lose funding on September 30. The same goes for programs -including critical in-school programs - that work to protect kids from tobacco company efforts to addict them.

What's more, those crafting the state's budget are misrepresenting the deduction, calling it a revenue source as opposed to the reduction in funding it actually is. Tobacco company payments were designed to address tobacco-related issues, not arbitrarily fill budget gaps.

These programs matter. The effects of tobacco use are costly. In Pennsylvania, annual tobacco-related health care costs are $ 5.2 billion and productivity losses $4.7 billion. Yet, prevention and cessation efforts reduce the number of smokers and directly affect these costs.

In Adams County, the Gettysburg Hospital provides tobacco cessation counseling to all residents and workers wanting to quit tobacco use. Counseling is offered free of charge by phone, through the internet, in 8-week Freedom From Smoking® evening courses held 3 times per year and one-on-one face-to-face treatment planning at no cost 365 days out of the year. The program has been working with the local school districts since 2002 to offer tobacco prevention education for youth K-12. On average, the Gettysburg Hospital Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program conducts 136 programs annually reaching encounter numbers of over 10,000 youth and adults every year! Over 400 adults in Adams County proudly stand smoke-free today after enrolling in these counseling and treatment planning services over the past 7 years with Gettysburg Hospital. What happens to those adults currently in classes attempting to quit after all services are suspended on October 1? Is this really the time to take away the programs that support Adams County residents and workers at the time they need it the most?

Tobacco companies spend $ 534 million in marketing in Pennsylvania each year. Those dollars will not be cut. Shouldn't Pennsylvania be taking a different course? It's Pennsylvania lives and jobs that are at stake.

letters to the editor

Best

Frank - The article you wrote for the Patty Larkin/Catie Curtis /Bobbi Carmitchell upcoming appearance at the Carlisle Theatre on November 23, was one of the best I have read in my time as the Programming Coordinator. So often you can tell that the writer is merely going through the paces. They view their words as nothing but the completion of their assigned widget for the day. But words…they mean something. I've been caught up in the soaring rhetoric of our President's words in the last 10 minutes of his speech last night. Words can cause folks to jump into action. And Frank, your words made me want to go to see a show I, myself, had already put together. I was aiming for a unique evening of female singer-songwriters and you seemed to understand how seldom this happens in this day and age in central Pennsylvania. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking your craft seriously. You have earned more of our future business.

Thom O'Neil
Programming Coordinator
Carlisle Theatre

Complete Coverage

Central Voice is looking really great; the writing is tight and the coverage is more complete than ever before. Thanks for including the Pride picture of my friends and me, we got a kick out of it.

Mike Chapaloney

Central Voice Offers Balance

By Leo Dunn

Central Voice does a good job of staying balanced. By "balanced" I mean that your publication primarily carries articles that both inform and encourage people to take responsibility for their actions rather than blaming problems on "government," the "system," or other people.

LGBT equality has come a long way since 1969 when the Stonewall Rebellion occurred. The progress is not all due to vocal advocates. It also depends on quiet people being open with their friends and co-workers and showing that most LGBT individuals are really no different than their non-gay counterparts. I often think more progress actually occurs from these quiet actions than from demands made loudly in public. Though it is certainly useful to have several types of activities occurring simultaneously.

Your editorial leadership of Central Voice seems to embrace both styles, those of us who work quietly for progress and those who rally publicly - without making either unwelcome - while trying to give good information and keeping us connected to the arts.

Political IQ:
Children Suffer When the Religious Right Wins A Personal Story

By Diane Silver

For any mother, the day her child turns 18 is a milestone, but for a lesbian mom that particular birthday can be overwhelming.

The day my son turned 18 was routine, as birthdays go. I went to work. I made jokes about how I couldn't possibly be old enough for him to be 18. A high school senior, Tony played trumpet in the marching band, and his friends surprised him that night with an impromptu concert on our front lawn. They stayed for cake and ice cream and then jammed in my living room.

It was a good day, but it was also odd. As much as I enjoyed it, I felt strange. It wasn't that I felt bad; I felt relieved, but I couldn't figure out why. Tony had always been healthy. He got good grades. He was a normal, rowdy teen. I couldn't figure out why I was so incredibly relieved that he had turned 18.

Nothing made sense until I had a "eureka" moment in the shower the next morning. Tony had reached the age of adulthood. No one had the legal right to rip him away from his family anymore.

Tony is the biological child of my late life partner, who died of breast cancer more than a decade ago. As co-parent – particularly as co-parent in the very red state of Kansas – I was a legal nonentity.

I was there when he was born. I held out my hands for his first step. I heard his first words. I sat up all night with him when he had his first cold. I went to every single parent-teacher conference. I paid for his doctor checkups and school fees, and I kept him in shoes. I held him when his birth mother died when he was just 7. I love him more than I ever knew you could love any soul. Despite all that, without the intervention of a court, I wouldn't have had the legal right to be in the same room with him, let alone to be his parent.

We were lucky, though.

I was able to legally adopt him, largely because my partner's family supported me. I might not have succeeded if they hadn't.

I didn't know how close Tony came to being torn away until my late partner's brother told me he considered taking my son after his sister died. He consulted a psychologist friend. That psychologist - bless him - told the man I still consider to be my brother-in-law that taking me away from Tony would mean that he would lose both parents and not just one, with the death of his birth mother.

Even though this good man had seen me with Tony for years and knew how close we were, it never occurred to him to think of me as Tony's parent. To his credit, my brother-in-law saw the truth in his friend's statement and supported the adoption.

Think about how close that was. What if my partner's brother couldn't see the wisdom of his friend's words? What if he had talked to a different friend?

My son and I are blessed. Despite one tragedy, our family avoided another. We stayed together when so many other families have been forced apart. In the 1990s, 12-year-old Cassie was taken from her mother, Mary Ward, in Florida and given to her father – a convicted murderer. In 2006 and 2007, the children of Keri Jones of Utah and B.F. in Kentucky lost the right to even visit their co-parents. Today, Kathryn Kutil and Cheryl Hess of West Virginia are fighting to keep custody of the baby they fostered when no one else wanted a child born to a drug addict.

Despite our family's good fortune, it wasn't until my son became a legal adult that I realized how frightened I had been. I never knew whether the people who believe I'm an abomination would find a way to legally remove my son from the only family he had ever known.

This is just a taste of what it is like to be a lesbian or gay parent in the United States today. With the 2008 passage of the adoption ban in Arkansas and the Religious right's continuing agitation for other bans, our families face repeated attacks.

If an adoption ban had been in effect when my partner died, it would have been impossible for me to adopt Tony. What a tragedy that would have been.

Diane Silver is a former newspaper reporter and magazine editor, whose freelance writing has appeared in The Progressive, Salon.com, Ms., and other national publications. She can be reached care of this publication or at PoliticalIQ@qsyndicate.com.

Community Center's Maloney & Others in Kipona Canoe Race

This past Labor Day a four man gaggle – Sean Maloney, LGBT Community Center interim program director, John Campbell, Josh Appleman, and Chris Dietz flocked to the Susquehanna River. They were prepared to flog the competition in the Harrisburg Canoe Club's Annual Kipona Canoe Races.

The team competed in four races. Each member received a long-sleeve T-shirt all for a $5 registration fee. "In our first outing, the 2-Man Novice, a 'never raced before' catgory, one of our boats took the early lead and looked promising, until the turn around for the return leg of the race," Deitz reports. At that point we rammed head on into the turn around buoy and lost all forward momentum. "Needless to say we did not finish as the lead boat, but in a respectable 4th position in the heat and 7th out of 22 boats overall.

"Our other two-man boat took the scenic route but finished "strongly" to quote the race announcer. The other highlight of our day, was the four-man warrior canoe race. "Our team paddled until our arms were numb. We were cut off and sandwiched by two boats early on, but passed a few other crews on our way to the finish line, placing 10th out of 16 boats," Deitz says. "It was a great time! We plan to do it again next year and with a little practice beforehand we hope to finish first! Special thanks to our crew chief A.P. who took some great pictures!"

arts & entertainment

HERSHEY THEATRE

Classic Film Series
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation- Nov. 15, 2 p.m.

1938 Classic The Adventures of Robin Hood - Dec. 27, 2 p.m.

Romance with Ghost – Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.

An Affair to Remember - Valentine's Day, 2 p.m.

The Greatest Story Ever Told - March 21, 2 p.m.

Breakfast at Tiffany's - April 17, 7:30 p.m.

All tickets $7 at box office; 717-534-3405, HersheyTheatre.com.

YORK LITTLE THEATRE

Beauty and the Beast
November 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 at 8 p.m.
November 8, 15 and 22 at 3 pm
Tickets $10 - $20
Broadway's classic fairy tale in which a young woman's life is transformed into a fantastic adventure when she becomes the key to breaking an enchantress' curse on a spoiled prince.
York Little Theatre
27 S. Belmont St. York 17403
717-854-5715 www.ylt.org

WHITAKER CENTER

The Guthrie Family Legacy Rides Again
Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
Sunoco Performance Theater
Tickets $45
For four decades, Arlo Guthrie has embodied a spirit of sharing timeless stories and unforgettable classic songs with audiences around the world. Upholding a long-standing Guthrie Family tradition of traveling to communities far and wide, this performance brings four generations of voices together on one stage. Features his son and two daughters.

The Annual Celebration of the Magnificent Men Starring Class Act featuring Rita
Nov. 28, 8 p.m.
Sunoco Performance Theater
Tickets $38.00
In 1966, seven musicians from the Harrisburg and York areas made history as the first white act to headline the Apollo Theater in New York. Known fondly by fans as the "Mag Men," the band was one of Central Pennsylvania's most renowned rhythm and blues groups that gained national recognition during the late '60s and early '70s. Aside from headlining at the Apollo Theater, the band also appeared in concert on The Merv Griffin Show and The Johnny Carson Show.
Info: whitakercenter.org; 717/214-ARTS

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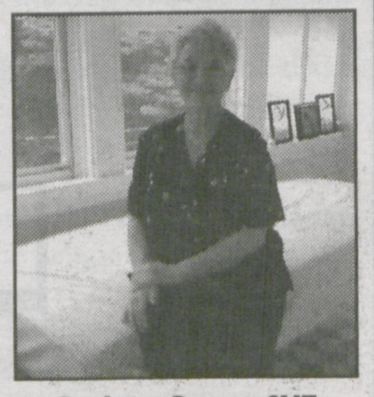

Barbara Dwyer CMT
Member of AMTA
Graduate of HACC School of Massage

community voice

Local Stonewall Democrats List Endorsements

Submitted by Capital Region Stonewall Democrats

The Capital Region Stonewall Democrats have endorsed nine candidates for the 2009 General Election. (Editors Note: Central Voice does not endorse political candidates. As a publication, we ask Capital Region Stonewall Democrats to provide their endorsements as a service to our readers. Readers can then make up their own minds.)

The endorsements are:

Dauphin County Common Pleas Judge - Lori Serratelli - During Lori's three decades of practicing law, she has demonstrated a commitment to equal rights for all people, and has fought hard for equality both personally and as an attorney. Lori is the only registered Democrat on the ballot; the other candidates are all Republicans who had cross-filed. Lori has more years of legal experience than anyone else who is running. She started her own law firm that has grown to 14 attorneys. While you are permitted to vote for up to three candidates, CRSD recommends that you maximize your vote's impact by bullet voting for the only Democrat and CRSD-endorsed candidate on the ballot: Lori Serratelli.

Dauphin County Coroner - Patty Garber
Dauphin County Prothonotary - Marilyn Levin - Other than the one minority County Commissioner mandated by law, Democrats have not won a Dauphin County row office in 225 years. But this year CRSD believe they have two highly qualified candidates in Patty and Marilyn who are ready to change the one-party Republican rule of the County Courthouse. Patty and Marilyn could not be more supportive of the lgbt community, and both have actively engaged our community throughout their campaigns.

Harrisburg Controller - Dan Miller - Dan, a CPA with an MBA in Finance, is supremely qualified for City Controller. A longtime gay activist, one of Dan's accomplishments on City Council was drafting, introducing, and passing a Life Partner Registry which allowed for basic equality for unmarried couples. Dan promises to bring independence, accountability, and transparency to the City Controller's office - qualities that Harrisburg desperately needs.

Harrisburg School Director - Roy Christ and Tiffiney Penn - CRSD was very impressed with both Roy and Tiffiney, and are very confident that if elected they will make sure that the Harrisburg School District will enact policies that treats all of its students, teachers, and employees fairly and equally without regard to sexual orientation.

Middletown Mayor - Suzanne Poliner
Susquehanna Township Commissioner - 1st Ward - Jody Rebarchak
Susquehanna Township Commissioner - 2nd Ward - Diane Bowman - CRSD was excited to have many candidates outside of the city limits seek our endorsement this year. Previously, we had had candidates who sought our endorsement only if we didn't publicize our support. (Needless to say, they didn't receive our endorsement.) That so many candidates outside of the traditional 'gay-friendly' city sought our support speaks highly of both our organization and of the candidates themselves. Suzanne, Jody, and Diane were the cream of the crop of those seeking our endorsement; all three are very supportive of lgbt rights.

DOMA Repeal Introduced with 4 PA Co-sponors

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, with 91 additional co-sponsors from the United States House of Representatives, introduced legislation to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in its entirety.

Four Congessman from Pennsylvania signed-on to co-sponsor The Respect for Marriage Act of 2009: U.S. Representatives Robert Brady (D - 1st Dist.), Chaka Fattah (D - 2nd Dist.), Joe Sestak (D - 7th Dist.), and Michael Doyle (D - 14th Dist.) The Respect for Marriage Act would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which singles out lawfully married same-sex couples for discriminatory treatment under federal law, denying them more than 1,100 federal protections and responsibilities that would otherwise apply to them once legally married like all other spouses.

Among the 1,100 federal protections and responsibilities denied to legally married same-sex couples are the ability to: file joint taxes; receive spousal, mother's and father's, or surviving spouse benefits under Social Security; take unpaid leave to care for a sick or injured spouse; receive employer-provided family health benefits without paying an additional tax that different-sex spouses do not pay; receive the same family health and retirement/pension benefits as fellow married employees; and be protected by the safe harbor provisions in bankruptcy law, Medicaid rules and other federal statutes that secure some resources and the family home when debts of one spouse threaten to leave both financially responsible spouses destitute.

The Respect for Marriage Act does not obligate any person, religious organization, locality, or state to celebrate or

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The Personal and the Political

By Mikaya Heart
Special to Central Voice

Just before Proposition 8 passed, I was in Oakland, California, which has a huge gay population. I arrived at my friend's house towing a boat, which meant that I took up two parking spaces.

Outside the house, a woman with a cane walked by me.

"Are you going to be here long?" She asked.

"No, I'll be leaving shortly," I replied.

"Well, it's very frustrating when people take up the parking spaces here. I had to park all the way down there, and now I have to walk up the hill, and I can't walk very well!"

I started to reassure her I was leaving soon, but she was on a roll.

"People just really don't care. It makes me want to vote for Proposition 8!"

I gaped. "You mean—you're going to vote for Proposition 8 because I'm here with a boat?"

She grunted. "Well, no! I'll vote against it. But this kind of thing makes me want to vote for it!" She shuffled on up the hill.

Faced with ridiculous threats like this, it would be easy to get up in arms about heterosexual privilege. But getting angry in reaction to a person who is angry isn't useful. I think it's worth taking a closer look at this kind of dynamic. As a lesbian, a radical, and a woman in manual trades, I've been on the fringes of society's acceptability for long enough to know that disadvantaged groups can be very egocentric.

your voice

When society doesn't acknowledge our right to exist at all, we stay behind the scenes and try not to attract too much attention. When society begins to allow us some self-expression, and we can begin to live our lives freely, we tend to be noisy and loud. We are making the statement that we have a right to be here, and we are making it loudly precisely because we are still a little uncertain of ourselves. We're like a person who stands with her elbows akimbo, taking up as much space as she can, just to prove that she has a right to her own space. And sometimes we are elbowing other people out of the way. The woman with the cane was feeling elbowed out of the way. It's not my job, or anyone else's, to make her feel better. She needs to deal with her feelings and get a life. My concern is I don't want to do anything to fuel her negative feelings, and I don't want to allow her to be fueling any negativity on my part.

Although it's not a popular point of view, I believe it's natural that people who are accustomed to being the top dogs get a little worried when the underdogs start to gather clout. If those of us who have been without power start getting some power, are we going to punish them? That is really the question I am asking. It's not easy to feel compassion for people who have the power to threaten our basic rights if we don't behave the way they think we should. But are we operating from a place of self-righteous anger, planning to teach them a lesson by doing the same thing to them as they have done to us? Many of the people who are working for change on a political level fuel their work with anger, and it becomes a habit that doesn't disappear when one or two wrongs are righted.

Ongoing anger, whether it's felt by a fundamentalist Christian or a gay activist, is always related to a sense of powerlessness. When you're in a place of self-empowerment, then you are not threatened by others, and you don't have to impose your beliefs on them. Even though she's heterosexual and has privileges that I as a lesbian do not have, the woman with the cane is not in her personal power. Being in your personal power has nothing to do with being heterosexual or homosexual, Caucasian or otherwise, rich or poor. It has to do with something much deeper than that. You can have all the money in the world and still spend your life in fear, which is a place of powerlessness. The media feeds us a persuasive line about how dreadful things are all round the world, giving us plenty of things to be afraid of—although on my travels, which have been extensive, I've found that the world is full of happy people.

We struggle to make the world a more peaceful and loving place. We struggle. That makes the world a place of struggle. What we resist persists. When we are focused on what is wrong, we are feeding that wrong-ness. I could work hard in politics, and if I enjoyed that work, then I'd be bringing some joy into the world, but if I didn't enjoy that work, I wouldn't really be benefiting anyone. I'd be like the woman with the cane – thinking angry thoughts and only just controlling their manifestation (or not controlling it) on a practical level. I need to attend to my own life.

Every time I choose to love whomever I love, live the way I want to live, and be the person I am, I am asserting my rights in the world. I'm not being who I am in reaction to something external, or in order to show others what's what. I am just leading my own life. I look for personal solutions to problems, and in so doing, I undermine the

continued on page 13

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Men4Men (M4M) is a program dedicated to the health and wellness of gay, bisexual and questioning men in South Central PA. M4M is a project of AIDS Community Alliance. For more information visit myspace.com/acam4m or call 1.800.867.1550.
Men4Men is funded in part by The AIDS Fund of South Central PA , FHCCP and Highmark.

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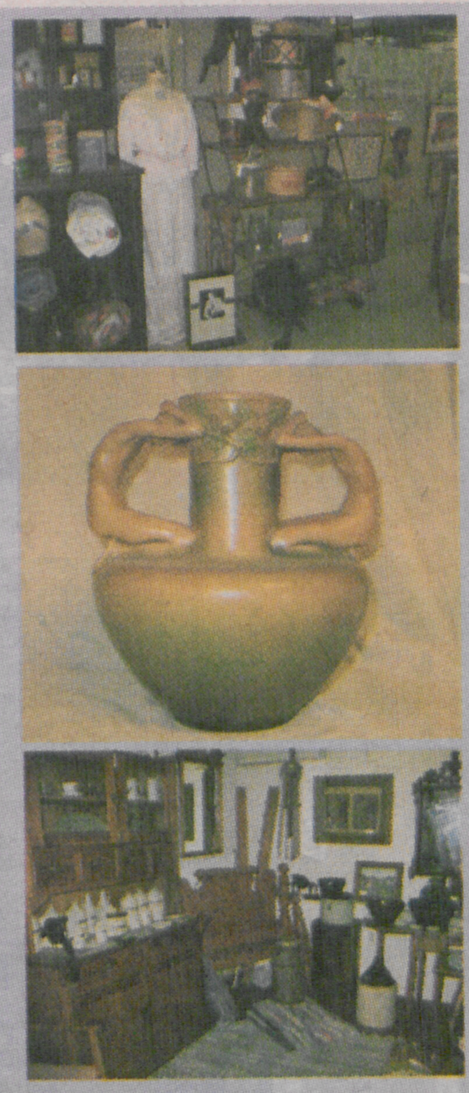

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Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival Presents Richard III

Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival presents William Shakespeare's Richard III as part of its Mainstage season. Shows run Fridays and Saturdays from Nov. 6 - Nov. 21 at Gamut Theatre, located at 605 Strawberry Square, Downtown Harrisburg. Tickets are $25 for adults and $17 for students/seniors.

Richard III is a history drama that centers on the conniving, physically-deformed yet silver-tongued Duke of Gloucester, Richard, and his body-strewn climb to the top of England's royal seat, as well as his inevitable fall.

Directed by Jeremy Garrett, Associate Artistic Director of Gamut Theatre Group, HSF's production of Richard III has been inspired by the political bullying and gang warfare rampant in American cities in the mid-19th century.

Says Mr. Garrett, "The power-struggles in this show are drawn from the War of the Roses and the series of 15th century English civil wars that took place between the house of Lancaster and the house of York. The brutality and violence during this period are very reminiscent of the tumultuous politics of cities like New York, Chicago, and even Harrisburg in the 19th century. So many similar forces are vying for power over the masses, whose loyalties can shift daily, that gang mentality emerges and opponents are dealt with through swift force, rather than debate. It was a gritty, violent time, and this is a gritty, violent story."

Jeremy Garrett as Macbeth
Photo Credit: Brianna Dow

Designed by Steve Krempasky, the set is modeled after a dirty, 1850s city street. Peppered with gaslight lamps, the street's houses are packed together and weeds infest the cracks of the red brick. Sound design is done by Mike Banks; costume design by Shannon Bowman; light design by Nick Marino; fight choreography by Arthur Rowan; production by Melissa Nicholson; and Noel Sloboda serves as dramaturg.

Gamut Theatre Group is led by Artistic Director Clark Nicholson and Executive Director Melissa Nicholson. Contact: 717.238.4111; www.gamutplays.org.

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The Croon of Cameroon

Rupaul's Drag Race Winner Releases Debut Single

By George Shapiro

Rupaul's Drag Race winner Bebe Zahara Benet started her career as a male model on the runways of France. Yes, a male model. During a show, when some of the female models failed to appear, Bebe – or Kudi, as the male Bebe was known then - was asked to step in as a lady. Bebe Zahara Benet emerged. Two years later, Kudi, er, Bebe, won the title of "America's Next Drag Superstar."

"Winning the show was a stepping stone to take my artistry to the next level," explains Bebe. "I'm thankful for all the opportunities that have come my way."

Bebe Zahara Benet

Some of the opportunities have been a photo spread in Paper magazine, an L.A. Eyeworks campaign, a headlining spot on the Absolut Pride Tour, and a record deal. Bebe releases her debut single, "The Sh-t", this fall.

Tell us about your new single, "The Sh-t".

It is concept that producer Mark Pichiotti and I came up with to self affirm and empower people. The reality is we use this phrase a lot in our minds, I am just verbally saying it! Trust me, when you think it, your attitude changes.

Can you give us examples of celebs that are the sh-t?

There are so many. Beyonce, Diana Ross, Ru Paul, Grace Jones, Tyra Banks, Oprah Winfrey, Tyler Perry…

And you?

Why, of course!

What makes Bebe Zahara Benet the sh-t?

Her unique sense of fashion and

continued on page 13

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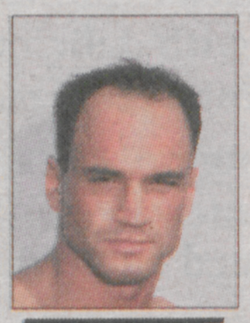

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JOYFUL Sound

Debby Holiday - Back at #1

By Richard Packard

Debby Holiday broke into the dance scene five years ago with 2004's celebrated summer anthem Dive. More dance floor hits quickly followed including the power ballad Half A Mile Away, Bring It On and last summer's Surrender Me. Her latest track, Joyful Sound, is featured in this season's hit LOGO show Sordid Lives: The Series – and just hit #1 on the leading dance music site, Masterbeat.com.

Do you get mistaken for the other Holiday?

You mean Jennifer? Not very often. Although with a voice like hers, I certainly wouldn't mind if I did.

Your Dad was another famous Holiday.

My dad, Jimmy Holiday, wrote so many amazing songs. The most famous, "Put A Little Love in Your Heart" is still heard in a popular butter commercial.

Did he influence your career?

I got my "I don't give a damn" attitude from him. He also taught me to never give up. He was tough. When I was young, he would pull me over to the piano and correct my vocal notes until I got them right.

Debby Holiday is known for her summer anthems. Why did you decide to release JOYFUL SOUND now?

The timing was strictly based around the launch of the Del Shores series, "Sordid Lives". Joyful Sound will be heard in the season finale.

Your first song, Dive, was featured on QUEER AS FOLK. We're noticing a trend here…

Today, television plays a huge part in getting your music heard. I have a long list of people to thank for getting my music out there from Del Shores to Andrew Briskin, and of course the DJ/Producers like Scotty K and Chris Cox. I am truly grateful to everyone who has helped me.

Some personal questions:

Are you a mama's girl? Or was Daddy more your thing?

I didn't really grow up in much of a traditional household. I was on my own from a very young age. So, I'm gonna have to say, I am my own girl.

Of all your hits, which is your favorite and why?

Easy: "Dive". It's where it all started.

Besides music, what sound brings you the most joy?

Silence can be utterly beautiful.

Who are your favorite designers?

Christian Satrustegui of Rebellion Dogs (rebellion-dogs.com) blows me away. He has designed several pieces for me and has never failed to shine.

Where can we find you at 9pm on a typical Tuesday night?

In my studio working on music, or at the gym, or these days, parked in front of CNN with a glass of wine.

For more info, visit DebbyHoliday.com.

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The Croon con'td

style. Her sexy yet salvage personality, her drive and determination. Above all, though, Bebe's the sh-t because she is genuine.

Is there a story behind the name Bebe Zahara Benet?

You know a lot of drag artists have a story behind their name choice. I don't. When I created my persona, I was thinking of a name that fits it; something edgy, dynamic, classy. I wanted something that flowed well and was globally appealing. The name Bebe Zahara Benet came to mind.

When did you know you were so fabulous, Bebe?

I have always known it! (Laughs) Seriously, I work very hard on my artistry and I am my own worst critic. I try to surround myself and work with people who possess a unique talent drive and positive spirit. The end result is fabulousness. You just can't help it.

Did you expect to beat the other fabulous ladies in RuPaul's Drag Race?

One thing I know for sure is that everyone is beatable. However, you never know what is under anyone's belt so I did not take anyone for granted. Through it all, I focused my energy on representing my persona the most honorable way as possible. That way, even if I did not win the race, I would still own my integrity.

Why do you feel you won? I enjoyed the moment in every part of the race. I really believe my energy set me apart.

Did any of the other ladies on the show have "the sh-t"? All of the ladies bring something special to the art form so yes they are all "the sh-t". I must tell you I was so happy when it came down to Nina and me because I knew whoever won was going to represent the title wonderfully. She is a superstar. We both just enjoyed the final moment.

Do you keep in touch with any of the ladies from the show? We connect a lot through texting. Everyone is working hard, advancing their careers, which is a good thing for the drag industry.

How did winning the show change your life? It confirmed that anything is possible when you believe, work hard, and do not underestimate yourself.

Will you be sad to give up your crown to the second season winner? Sad? No, no, no. I am so excited for the next season. I will always have my crown.

That's true. You will always be the first Drag Race winner. Kelly Clarkson is still the most successful of all the American Idol winners. I am all about focusing on getting Bebe to where she needs to go.

What's next for you?

I am very excited about my first single release! I will be creating a tour to promote it while finishing up the full-length album. This is only the beginning. Watch me fly.

Visit BebeZaharaBenet.com.

DOMA con'td

license a marriage between two persons of the same sex. The First Amendment protects the right of churches and religious bodies to determine the qualifications for religious marriage, and the Respect for Marriage Act cannot and will not upset that centuries-old protection.

Since DOMA was signed in 1996, six states-Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont-have moved to recognize same-sex marriages. According to Rep. Jerrold Nadler, prime sponsor of this legislation, the Act repeals DOMA in its entirety, and ensures that same-sex couples living in states where their marriage is not recognized can go to another state to marry and qualify for federal benefits when they return home.

Info on asking your congressman: http://www.keystoneprogress.org/page/speakout/parfma

The Personal con'td

power that governing bodies are assumed to have over me.

Personal power radiates out from inside. It is never about power over others. In the end, it involves taking responsibility for what you are thinking from moment to moment, because what you are thinking affects how you feel—and no matter how much we try to control our feelings, they will out. Any major change in life is about replacing old habits, and it can take time, so I'm not saying this is easy. It requires a considerable commitment and careful choices about what you focus on.

I have sometimes said that those years of putting up with Bush were not so bad. Bush was so obviously unqualified to be in any position of authority, that he made a lot of people question this government that is supposedly governing us. Many Americans wanted to remove themselves from any association with the government. And that has had profound consequences, on a deeply subconscious level that will take time to manifest, as more and more people wake up. We are all responsible for how we live our individual lives, in this moment and the next and the next. We don't need to wait for some external source to make things OK. We can just be who we are, right now.

Mikaya Heart has written books about lesbianism, shamanism, and orgasm, including "With the Sun in My Eyes". Her latest, "My Sweet Wild Dance," is an adventure-laden saga of healing out now. Although she officially lives in California, she is a keen kitesurfer, and follows the wind all year round. For more information, visit www.mikayaheart.org

mikayaheart@myfastmail.com

MCC column

The Gift of Community

Charles Tigard

By Rev. Charles Tigard
Interim Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit

Without doubt the winter season is my favorite time of the year. I find great joy in the traditions of the season and its sights, sounds, and smells. From roasting turkey, to the smell of a fireplace, or a lightened Christmas tree, the holiday season is a moment to celebrate our connections and the gift of community.

For some the holiday season can be a source of anxiety. The demands of family and friends, running holiday errands, purchasing gifts, and financial pressures can all be sources of stress.

For lgbt people the holiday season can pose particular challenges. How do you deal with that nagging aunt who can't wait to ask why you are still single? How do we include our significant others and families of choice in celebrations with our biological family? How can we give ourselves the creative gift of being in the supportive company of friends and loved ones?

One of the gifts we offer the world are the new ways we understand family. As lgbt people we understand a broad definition of what family can be for us, a definition that extends beyond biological ties.

For many the holiday season can be lonely and isolating. No matter our social situation, I believe we can experience the blessings of the season by giving ourselves the gift of community. Consider volunteering your time to assist those in need this holiday season. Give yourself the gift of community by reaching out to others.

Recently I was contacted by a young gay man struggling with his sexuality and looking for resources in central PA. He was searching for direction and meaning in his life, and experiencing isolation. I encouraged him to select one of the many community events offered in our region and get active. From connecting to spiritual community or an event sponsored by the lgbt Community Center Coalition, there are many ways to stay connected as the cold winter months set in.

This holiday season, a season of lights and new beginnings my personal prayer is that you will discover the gift of community in your life.

Rev. Charles Tigard serves as Interim Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, Harrisburg. MCCoftheSpirit.org, 2973 Jefferson St., Harrisburg, PA 17110; Church Office; 717-236-7387
Personal: 717-382-8622; ctigard@MCCoftheSpirit.org; www.MCCoftheSpirit.org.

Harrisburg Men's Chorus Sings "Let Music Live"

The (mostly gay) Harrisburg Men's Chorus is back and the group is bigger and better than ever! Under the direction of David Walker, HMC has grown to 28 butch and tenor voices. You'll have the chance to hear their winter concert, Let Music Live, at 8:00 PM, Saturday, January 20 and 2:00 PM, Sunday, January 21 at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, 1280 Clover Lane. Although the venue is a house of worship, the music will include the irreverent, (maybe very irreverent), the schmaltzy, the down right humorous and the inspirational and it's all delivered with a GLBT sensibility.

There will be appearances by small ensembles and extraordinary soloists from within the ranks of the HMC. Big hits by legendary musicians including Billy Joel, Stephen Sondheim, Randall Thompson, The Chiffons and the Maguire Sisters will be performed. Music by soon to be legend Eric Lane Barnes will be sung too. Most of the singers wish Mr. Barnes (talented, handsome, gay, composer/lyricist) would be appearing in January - but he won't. Luckily, three of his most serious works: "Drama Queen", "For the Straight Guys" and "Gloria" will be performed for all to enjoy. Get your tickets to one of these fine concerts before they sell out by calling Tim at 433-0184 or David at 233-4353. It's a great GLBT event to share with your friends and family - gay, bi, transgendered or straight.

Mike Doughty at Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center

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Play's 10th anniversary:

Epilogue to The Lamarie Project Premiered in 100 Cities

By Frank Pizzoli

Creators of the highly acclaimed play "The Laramie Project," premiered a compelling and groundbreaking epilogue to the original piece. Entitled "The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later," the play was performed Oct. 12 in New York's Lincoln Center and in more than 100 other theaters nationwide.

Matthew Shepard

Writers of this play are Tectonic Theater Project members Moisés Kaufman, Leigh Fondakowski, Greg Pierotti, Andy Paris, and Stephen Belber.

"The epilogue focuses on the long-term effects of the murder of Matthew Shepard on the town of Laramie," says Pierotti. "It explores how the town has changed and how the murder continues to reverberate in the community."

> ***"It explores how the town has changed..."***

The play includes new interviews with Matthew's mother Judy Shepard and Mathew's murderer Aaron McKinney, who's serving two consecutive life sentences. The writers also conducted many follow-up interviews with Laramie residents from the original piece, including, Romaine Patterson, Reggie Fluty, Jedediah Shultz, Father Roger Schmidt, Jonas Slonaker, Beth Loffreda and others.

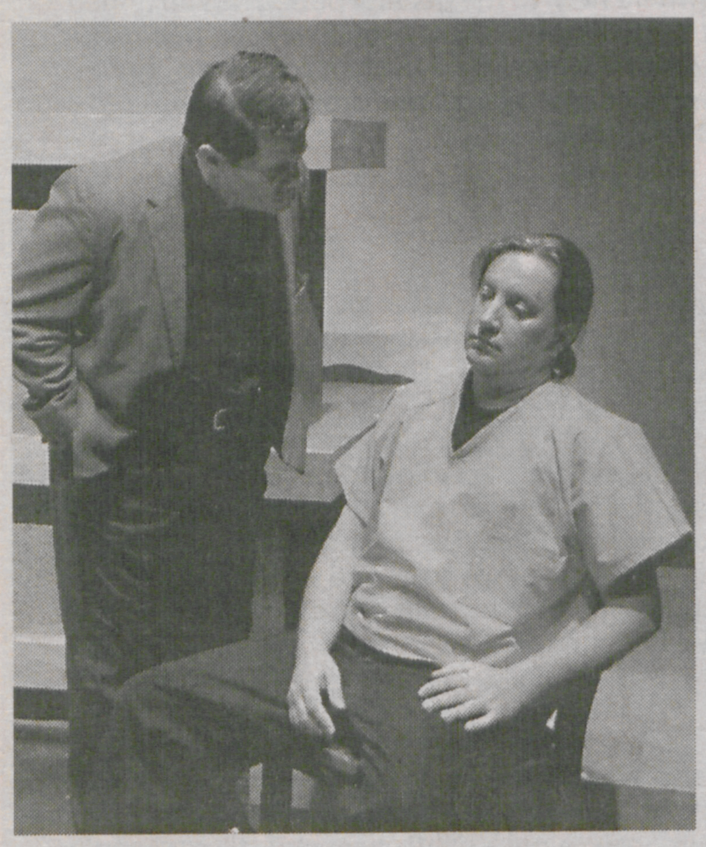
"The Tectonic Theater Project set out to find out how Laramie had changed in the ten years since the murder of Matthew Shepard," Pierotti explains. "When we arrived, we were forced to confront the question, 'How do you measure change in a community?'"

One of the things we found when we got there, which greatly surprised us, was people in Laramie saying this was not a hate crime," says Moises Kaufman, Artistic Director of Tectonic Theater Project. "We found the people of Laramie still fighting to own their own history, their own identity, their own story, and part of that is shaped by how they understand what happened that night to Matthew," offered Leigh Fondakowski, one of the Epilogue writers.

"Creating the epilogue also gave us the opportunity to talk to Aaron McKinney about his crime, what his thinking is about it now, and what his experience has been in prison over the past decade," Pierotti says, the company member who interviewed Aaron. "We were also able to speak with Matthew's mother, Judy Shepard, whose striking transformation from privately grieving mother to civil rights activist has captured the nation's attention," says Andy Paris, another Epilogue writer.

Pierotti has visited Laramie several times since his initial work on the original script. "It's been fascinating for me to see how people there have comes through this process, being under such intense media scrutiny, trying to form thoughts on what happened," he reflects. In traveling back to gather information for the Epilogue, Pierotti says "We captured some excellent language in the new script." He teases readers with a scene of a DOMA vote in the Wyoming state legislature. "You won't believe the scene's ending."

Info: www.laramieproject.com; www.tectonictheaterproject.org.



"The Laramie Project" is a politically charged docu-drama by award-winning playwright Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project. They developed the script from hundreds of interviews conducted after Matthew Shepard's murder. The play has become one of the most widely performed theatre pieces of our day. Detective Rob Debree (playwright/actor and Central Voice Key West correspondent Chris Tittel) interrogates convicted killer Aaron McKinney (Adam Shaver) with The Naples Players, a Southwest Florida company that showcased the play to sellout crowds in 2003.

Matthew Shepard Timeline

- Oct. 6, 1998 Matthew Shepard was beaten and left to die tied to a fence in the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. He died 6 days later.
- A month after the murder, the members of Tectonic Theater Project traveled to Laramie and conducted interviews with the people of the town. From these interviews they wrote the play "The Laramie Project," which they later made into a film for HBO. The piece has been seen by more than 50 million people around the country and has been produced in central PA.
- Since 1999, The Laramie Project is one of the most produced plays in the country.

Art & Activism Unite for Sara Steele

Susan Schreckengaust, owner of Arts at 510, recently announced the November exhibit which opens November 6, in conjunction with the First Friday night at area galleries. The show features the works of artist and activist Sara Steele and continues through November.

Included in the show will be her 2010 edition of her vibrant calendar as well as many other watercolor works. Beverages will be served from 5:10-7:10 pm during the First Friday event at the gallery located at 510 N. Third Street, Harrisburg. Live music will be provided by 510 Express, featuring Kevin Kline on guitar and Ray Schreckengaust on harmonica.

Sara Steele is widely known for her vivid floral, landscape, still life, and abstract watercolor paintings as well as her annual calendars of which 2010 marks her 30th consecutive release in the U.S. and distributed internationally. Her work has been featured in more than fifty solo exhibitions in the U.S. and Europe, including the renowned Monestario de San Lorenzo de El Escorial in Spain and a thirty-year retrospective at the Berman Museum in 2005.

Her work has been documented in the books In Bloom, The Floral Art of Sara Steele (1994,) and more recently Sara Steele, Blueprints for Paradise (2005). The paintings she creates explore her concerns for our beautiful natural world and our fragile environment, with the hope of inspiring others to work for needed changes.

Steele's art and activism have been intertwined since early in her career, beginning with the renowned Women's Resources posters in 1979 and continuing in areas of ecology, women's issues, family and intimate violence, peace and social justice. The National Domestic Violence Hotline, which is the beneficiary of her annual calendar, the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women, the Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, SANE/Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, and Action AIDS just a few beneficiaries of her work, which has also been distributed widely to women's shelters, clinics and prisons throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Steele has won numerous grants and awards for art as well as for social activism, including the Peace and Freedom Award of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the Brandt F. Steele Aesthetic Award for the Promotion of Peace & Prevention of Violence from Primary Children's Medical Center, Salt Lake City, UT, and the Crystal Stair Award from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work. In 2003 she was a recipient of the Leeway Foundation's Window of Opportunity grant.

From 1992 through 1998 with the generous support of the Philadelphia Foundation and others, she led workshops for women survivors of personal violence as part of U.S. Artists annual exhibit of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Her work with the nationally known Clothesline Project has included public displays in City Hall Courtyard in Philadelphia and for the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. In 1997, she was awarded a major grant to be the first ever Artist-in-Residence at Friends Hospital, working collaboratively with a unit helping people suffering from trauma.

In addition to creating art, her passions include organic gardening; sustainability, green building, green-collar job development, recycling, and living local economies; nutrition, the organic and "Slow Food" movements; Traditional Chinese Medicine and alternative healing modalities.

ARTS at 510, located at 510 North Third Street, Harrisburg, is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with extended hours for artist receptions. The gallery phone number is 717.724.0364 and their website address is www.artsat510.com.

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book review

From Swish to Convents for Winter Reading

By Lewis Maurer
Dauphin County Library System
Try a humorous, thought-provoking, or steamy LGBT title from the Dauphin County Library System to relieve stress and escape from nonstop carols this holiday season.

Swish
By Joel Derfner

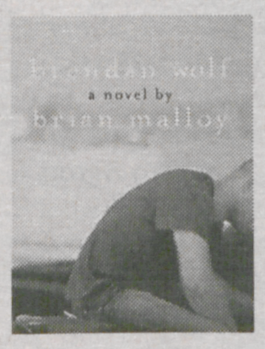
A hilarious and deeply moving account of one man's journey from stereotype to truth.
Joel Derfner is a knitter, an aerobics instructor, a cheerleader, a go-go dancer, and a musical theater composer, but when he realizes one day that he's a walking gay cliché he embarks on a quest for deeper meaning. A very, very funny quest for deeper meaning. And whether he's confronting the demons of his past at a GLBT summer camp, using the Internet to "meet" men–many, many men–or going undercover to a conference of ex-gays, he discovers that what he's looking for–and sometimes even finds, hidden underneath the surface of everyday life–is his own identity. In the tradition of David Sedaris and Augusten Burroughs, yet with its own particular flair, Swish is a story told with not just wit but humor; not just candor but honesty; and not just compassion but humanity.

Uncross My Heart
By Andrews & Austin

The timely topic of scriptural strictures against same-sex love gets an informed airing in this engaging story about the passion between two women, one leery of love because of her faith, the other wary of that same faith. Andrews & Austin weave religion and romance together in a novel that perfectly balances serious thought and sensual entertainment.

Brendan Wolf
By Brian Malloy

"Who is Brendan Wolf? It all depends on who you ask. To the staff of a Minneapolis nursing home, he's the devoted partner of a much older man who's recently suffered a debilitating stroke. To the women of a conservative, Christian pro-life organization, he's the tireless volunteer grieving over the recent loss of his wife and their unborn child. To one gay activist, he's the unaffectedly charming, yet directionless and unemployed, man that he's fallen hopelessly in love with. To his brother and his brother's wife, he's the lynchpin of a scam that will net them enough money to start their lives over somewhere new. To the general public, he's an armed and dangerous fugitive." *"All of these people - and yet none of them. Brendan Wolf is an ambivalent lover, reluctant conspirator, counterfeit Christian, and, most of all, an unemployed daydreamer obsessed with a dead man."*--BOOK JACKET.



The Back Passage
By James Lear

Mitch is a handsome, insatiable 22-year-old hunk who never lets a clue stand in the way of a steamy encounter, whether it's with the local constabulary, the house secretary, or his school chum and fellow athlete Boy Morgan, who becomes his Watson. When Reg Walworth is found dead in a cabinet, Sir James Eagle has his servant Weeks immediately arrested as the killer. But Mitch's observant eye pegs more plausible possibilities: polysexual chauffeur Hibbert, queenly pervert Leonard Eagle, missing scion Rex, sadistic copper Kennington, even Sir James Eagle himself. Blackmail, police corruption, a dizzying network of spyholes and secret passages, watersports, and a nonstop queer orgy backstairs and everyplace else mark this hilariously hard-core mystery by a major new talent

The Convent of the Pure
Sara M. Harvey

Harvey (A Year and a Day) cobbles together gothic steampunk fantasy and fluffy lesbian erotica in this romantic, necromantic tale. Two years after Imogen Gyony's death, her spirit still frequently visits her lover, Portia. Both are Nephilim, born of a celestial and a mortal being and raised to be warriors in an age-old fight against the demonic forces out to destroy humanity. When demons capture Portia, she escapes with crossbow blazing and takes on the fiends one by one, determined to bring Imogen back from the dead and save her Nephilim chapter house from being taken over by demon-influenced mages. Readers who aren't put off by the cheesecake cover illustration of buff, busty Portia will appreciate the mix of heat, horror and humor. – *Publisher's Weekly*

Fulton Playwright-in-Residence Honored

Fulton Playwright-in-Residence and Associate Director Barry Kornhauser has added another prestigious accolade to his growing list of national honors. He recently received the Charlotte B. Chorpenning Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a playwright for young audiences by the American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE).

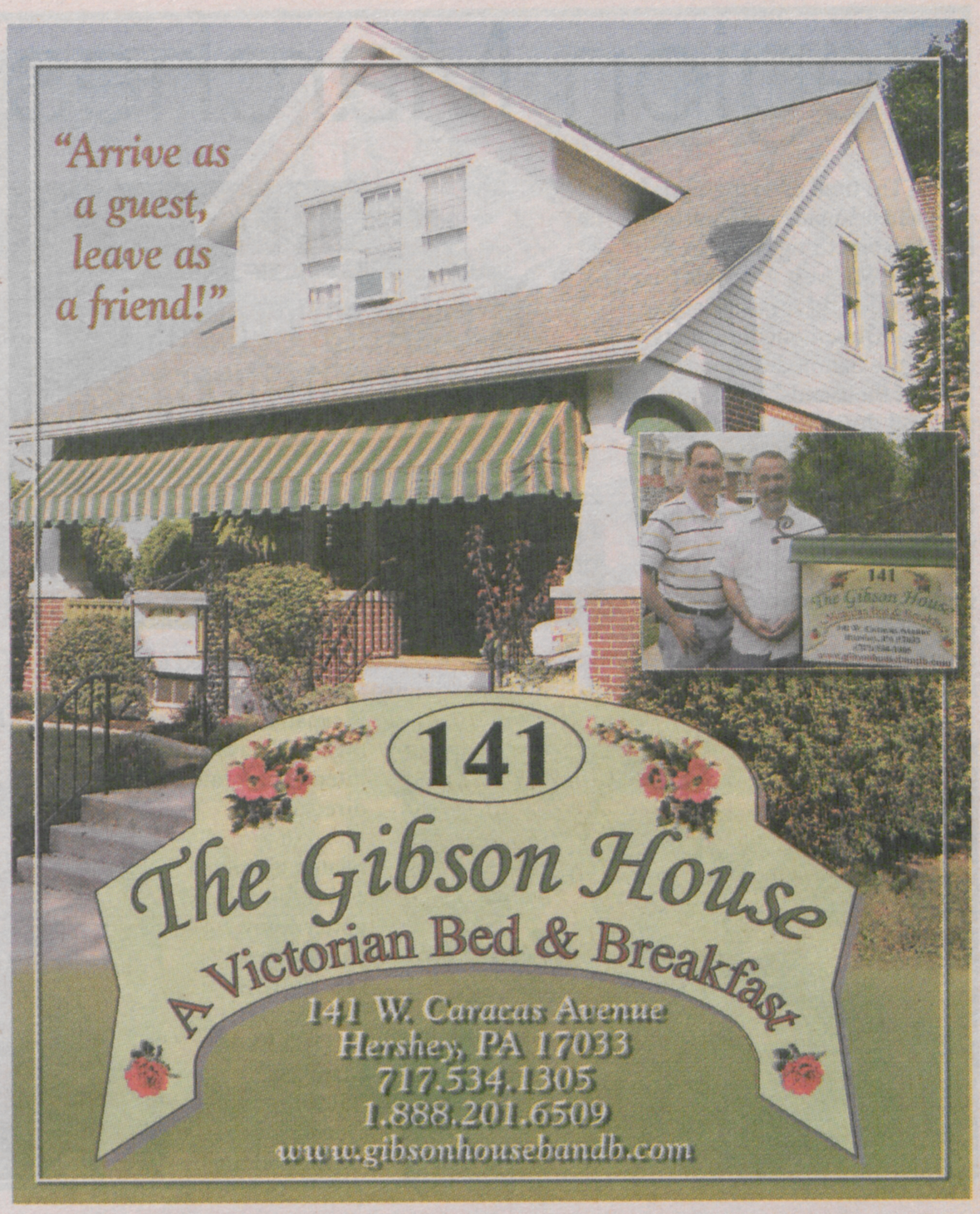
Barry Kornhauser

The award "honors a nationally known writer of outstanding plays for children. The award recognizes a body of distinguished work." It is named in honor ground-breaking children's playwright Charlotte B. Chorpenning of the famed Goodman Theater in Chicago, one of the pioneering leaders in the field. The actual award is an engraved silver cup made by Tiffany.

"For decades, Barry has been building a reputation nationally and internationally as a leading American playwright," says Fulton Artistic Director Marc Robin. "We at the Fulton are immensely proud of Barry and all his accomplishments."

In his letter of support for the honor, Children's Theatre Company Artistic Director Peter Brosius wrote "Barry is endlessly imaginative and humane...one of those rare writers who brings never-ending effort, relentless attention to detail, and an incredible sense of collaboration without losing track of the story arc and the truth of a character's journey. He brings a warmth and a deep humanity and grace into every encounter he has. His work honors his collaborators and honors the spirit and intelligence of the theatre. Barry is a truly gifted artist that we feel blessed to know and thrilled to work with. He brings out our best and creates work that is new, surprising and filled with humanity."

Kornhauser's other honors have included the Helen Hayes Outstanding Play Award, the Ivey Award for Playwriting, AATE Distinguished Play Award, Bonderman Playwriting Prize, TYA/USA "Best Plays of the Decade" Commendation, Pennsylvania's Educational Theatre Award and "Best Practices" Honor, and fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. In 2008, Kornhauser was the United States nominee for the ASSITEJ International Award for Artistic Excellence, and the Fulton's Youtheatre program, which he founded, was honored at the White House with the "Coming Up Taller" Award, recognizing it as one of the top arts-education initiatives in the nation.



Region Marches on Washington

"I'm tired carrying signs," read a hand-made sign hoisted by a 30-something gay man from the Midwest. Palpable frustration filled the air as what gay and mainstream media outlets across the nation described as "tens of thousands" lgbt individuals and their allies converged on Washington, DC Oct. 11. They marched down Pennsylvania Ave. past the White House to the nation's capital.

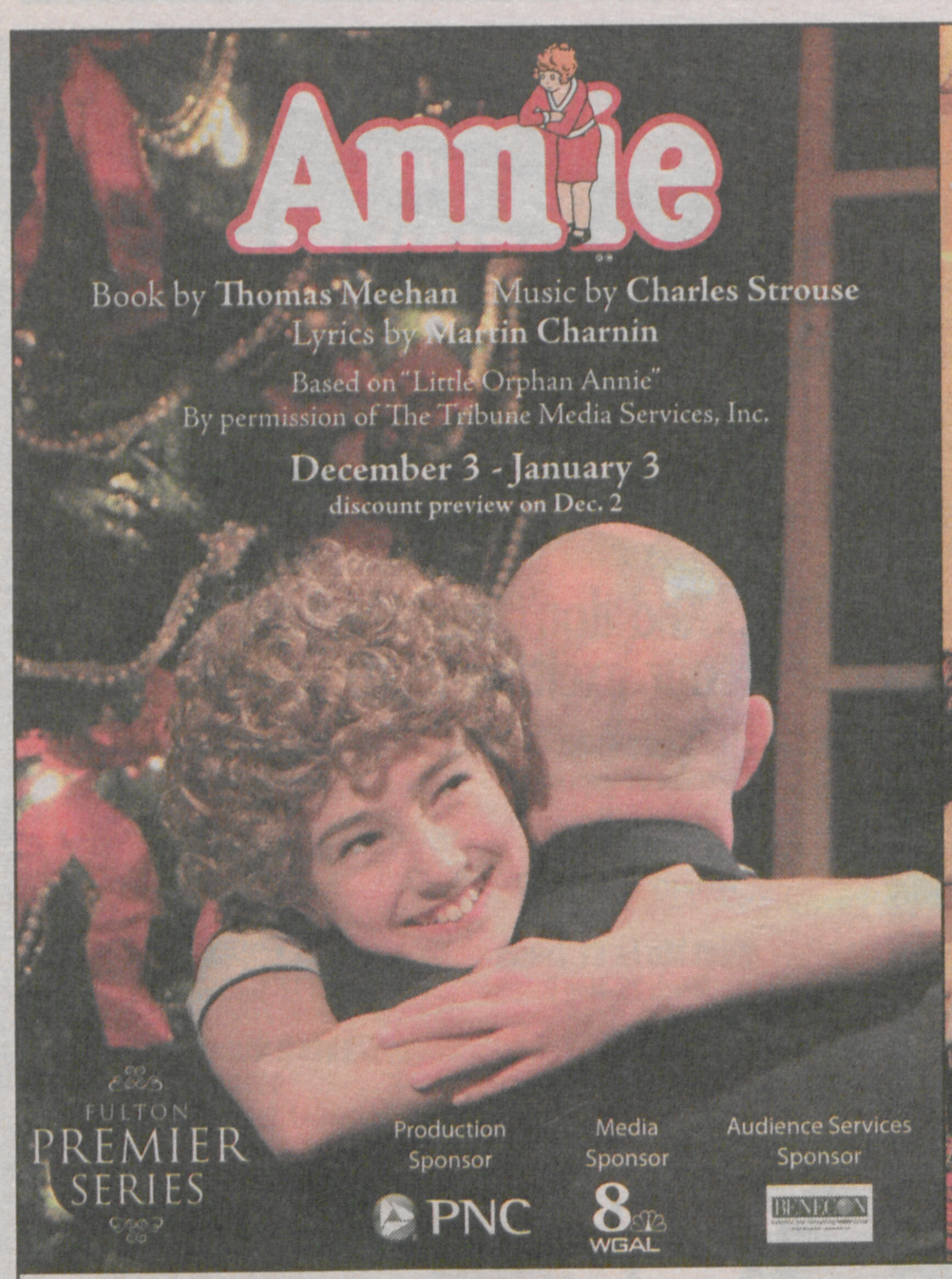
The LGBT Community Center organized more than 100 people who rode busses to the event. The center group was joined by a bus from Reading, PA, who worked together with the center to organize in their region. "This just demonstrates what central Pennsylvania is capable of when we all work together," says Sean Maloney, interim program director.

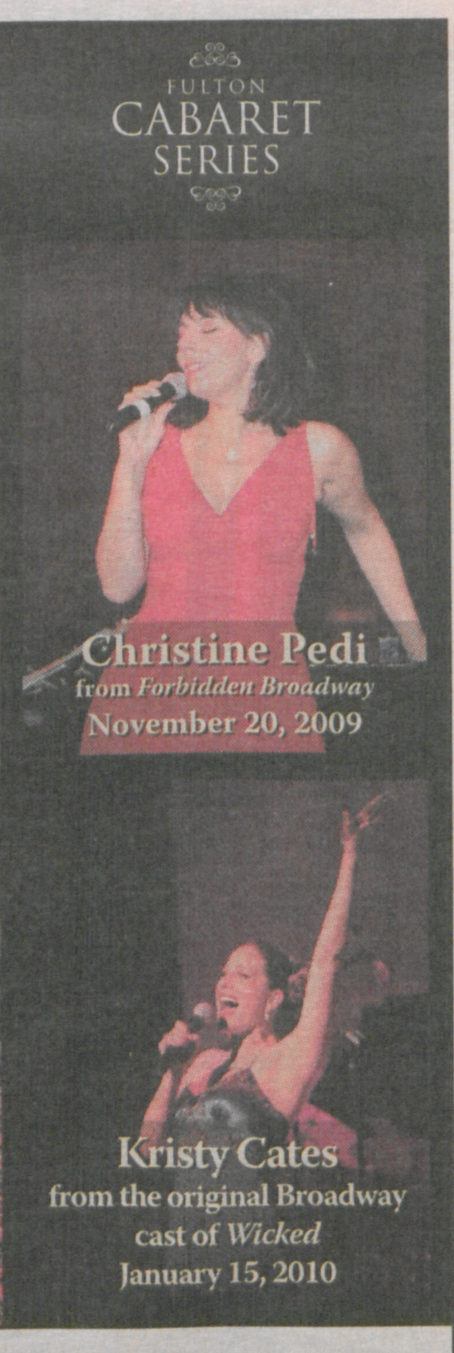
In a related matter, a pink/black/glitter spray painted message on HRC headquarters on DC's Rhode Island Ave. - "Quit Leaving Queers Out" - criticized the nation's largest lgbt lobby as non-democratic and non-inclusive. The "act of glamdalism" was unclaimed as of press time. President Obama spoke to 3,000 people assembled for the HRC's annual dinner. The president specifically condemned what he called lies and divisiveness used by gay opponents. He cited messages used in anti-marriage equality ads across the country. Obama referred to the "pink elephant" of religion based bigotry which he said is the major obstacle to achieving full civil equality.

Preceeding the national march, HIV activists held an HIV Rally Oct. 10 that drew Broadway talent and people affected by HIV from across the country. The Black & White Party, organized by Club XS, and Positive Opportunities attended.

continued >

See more photos and several videos at thecentralvoice.ning.com





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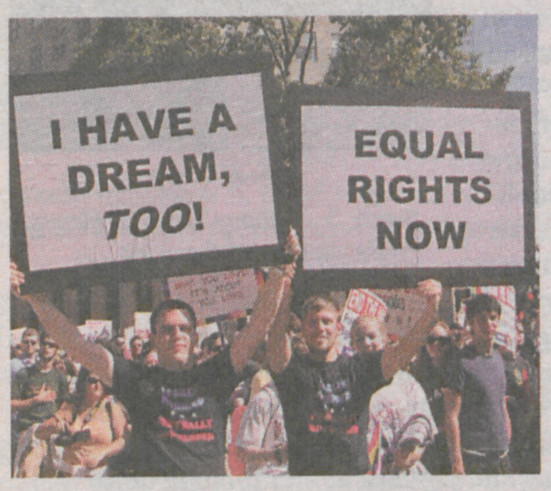

The photographs are by Photographer Wade Keller, shotinyork.com and official Club XS Photgrapher.

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Fringe Not Fringe

By Debra Miller
Phila. Arts Correspondent

With escalating ticket prices, rising fees for artists' participation, and more legitimate theater companies and professional performers taking advantage of the opportunity for an expanded season, there's little left in the Philadelphia Fringe Festival that is truly fringe anymore. It seems that major sponsors, huge grants, and elaborate sets and costumes have replaced the old pass-the-hat free shows that gave unaffiliated artists a public forum at a minimal cost. It has also become increasingly obvious that few young people or artists can afford to attend the events; the majority of the audience members at the shows I attended were silver-haired seniors and baby-boomers, many of them well-known, moneyed supporters of the well-established Philadelphia theater community. And even they were running themselves ragged to get their money's worth out of the pricey $325 all-access pass (or $650 for a 2-person pass, which, in case your math skills are lacking, provided no discount whatsoever). Though now largely a Live Arts Festival (albeit with all but 8 of the 300 shows offered this year still nostalgically designated in the catalogue as "Fringe"), there were certainly outstanding professional performances of a higher standard than ever before. So why not call it what it is? It is a two-week bonanza of the performing arts, featuring some of the most creditable and sought-after performers from Philadelphia and beyond. The Live Arts Festival should be proud of its quality and variety, without delusions of the original informality and all-inclusiveness that was the Fringe.

Dean and Britta's 13 Most Beautiful: Songs for Andy Warhol's Screen Tests was my top pick in the July-August issue of Central Voice, and it did not disappoint. The live performance by the New York rockers was higher energy than their DVD of the same name, though still in keeping with their dreamy, hypnotic style that accords perfectly with the time-bending Warhol films. But while the DVD's visual focus is on the films, with Dean and Britta heard only as background music and not seen, the audience's attention was divided during the live performance between the infamous Warhol Superstars on the screen and the equally captivating Dean and Britta on the stage. Though the couple, just returned from a European tour, apologized for their jetlag, the audience would never have known they were not feeling 100%; the show was a treat for both the ears and the eyes. We can't help but think that Andy would have numbered them among his "Most Beautiful" (figure 1).

Figure 1. Dean and Britta. Photo by Michelle Talan, courtesy of The Warhol Museum.

Figure 2. Nick Allin and the Ensemble of Company. Photo by Doug Greene, courtesy of EgoPo Productions.

Among the other outstanding performances I attended this year were productions by two of Philadelphia's newer, up-and-coming theater companies: Inis Nua's dark Irish comedy, Trad the Remount; and EgoPo's experimental staging of Samuel Beckett's Company, in which audience members were blindfolded, supine, and guided through the interactive play by guardian angels (figure 2). Both were devastatingly poignant ruminations on death, loss, and aging, and both were masterfully performed by their talented casts. This is the kind of thought-provoking and emotionally challenging theater for which Philadelphia's small companies have become known. If you missed them in the Fringe, be sure to make the trip to Philly to catch them during their regular seasons; you'll be glad that you did. Perennial Philadelphia favorite Tony Lawton also took to the Fringe stage in his intensely personal autobiographical work-in-progress entitled Heresy (figure 3), performed in the downstairs black box Lantern Lab at St. Stephen's Theater. Often hilarious, at times disturbingly explicit and downright creepy, Lawton bared his soul and left no doubt as to the manic intensity of his personality and the depth of his talent. He can enthrall an audience with no stage, no set, no costumes, and but a few props; he is the consummate performer.

Anthony Lawton

Figure 3. Anthony Lawton, Heresy. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Lighter fare was offered by an assortment of monsters and aliens in Zombie! The Musical, Pig Iron Theatre Company's Welcome to Yuba City!, and Paul and Sharri Jerue's FrankenFestival (one of the Fringe's best bargains, at $10 for a regular ticket and $5 for artists). The audiences for all three were appreciative of the clowning, mugging, and music; clearly everyone was there to have a good time, and they did. This frothy genre, inspired by classic and cult horror films, was well suited to the format of the fast-paced 15-minute shorts employed by the Jerues, whose clever writing and physical humor brought quick laughs in FrankenFestival (figure 4), and avoided the pitfall of prolonged story-lines and repeated sight-gags that were barely sustainable in the other two full-length productions. While I'm sure the French, with their inexplicable passion for Jerry Lewis and mimes, would love all the residents of Yuba City as much as the sold-out house did on the closing night of the Festival, it was Geoff Sobelle's ever-impressive, faun-like, gravity-defying acrobatics that stole the show.

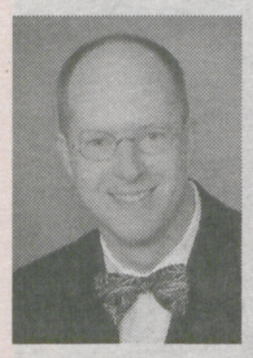
Kate Watson-Wallace's conceptual dance piece, Store, the highly anticipated third installment in her American Spaces Trilogy, left the audience begging for less concept and more dance. The choreographer's statement of uncontrolled consumerism in the US, visually enhanced by costume designer Millie Hiibel's seemingly endless mounds of mass-produced clothing, was well taken, but needlessly belabored. When she and her beautifully toned dancers (anonymous bodies) finally began to dance, the audience's excitement rose, then the piece quickly ended. It left us frustrated and wondering why such a talented dance troupe would have spent so little stage time doing what they do best. But when they did dance, it was extraordinary.

The Live Arts and Fringe Festival succeeds in presenting a mixed bag from which we all can choose to suit our own tastes; the question remains as to whether it will continue to raise its prices, so that it no longer suits many wallets, and becomes increasingly exclusive. If it does, it will surely eliminate the remainder of the real fringe audience and performers from the Fringe Festival. I wonder how many of the artists themselves could afford a pass to their own festival, especially if they wanted to bring their partners? At $650 per couple, maybe Kate Watson-Wallace was right to warn us about the dangers of rampant commercialism. Or maybe the Fringe has benefitted from its more serious and selective approach to programming, eliminating much of the juvenilia and giving us performances that are worth the price of admission.

Figure 4. Paul Jerue, Sara Valentine, Luke Moyer, Katherine Hayes, JaQuinley Kerr, and Kimberly Pryor in The Night of the Assisted Living Dead, from FrankenFestival. Photo by Sharri Jerue, courtesy of the artist.

legal column

Preparing For Passing On (or Being Incapacitated Unexpectedly)



By Leo L. Dunn

Everyone who has needed to manage the affairs of an incapacitated partner, parent, or close friend or settle the estate of such a person realizes it would be easier with a roadmap telling one what to do. Here's how you can start preparing such a roadmap and make life much easier on your loved one who needs to set in and deal with your affairs in case of illness or death.

First, create a list that contains the location of your most important planning documents, when they were signed, and who is given authority. This should at a minimum include your will, health care directive/living will, durable power of attorney for finances, and any trust you may have. If you do not have these documents signed yet, this is a good time to have them prepared.

Second, create a list of your insurances including the name of each company, company address and phone number, and the policy number. This insurance list should include health, dental, vision, disability, life, and long term care insurance. List everything you have and consider getting coverage for those you do not.

Third, create a list of your current and past employer information. If currently employed, list your employer, your supervisor's name, the supervisor and human resources phone numbers, employer address, and what employee benefits you have such as insurance, pension, health care. Also, list the named beneficiary for each employee/retirement benefit if you are allowed to name beneficiaries. Do this for every company you have worked for more than one year during the previous 20 years.

Fourth, create a list of every doctor you use regularly that includes their name, address, phone number and reason for see them. This should at a minimum include your family doctor and every specialist seen in the last decade.

Fifth, create a list of all your personal financial information that states the account description, company, phone number and account number. This should include your credit cards, checking, savings, brokerage accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and outstanding loans both owing and owed. This should include the names of any businesses you own any percentage of.

Sixth, create a list of all real property (land and buildings) owned with addresses and where the deeds are located.

Seventh, write a letter of instructions that explains your funeral and burial arrangements or preferences; location of your safe deposit box (and key); names/addresses/phone numbers of lawyer, accountant, broker, and clergy member; instructions for distribution of tangible personal property; expression of wishes for family/friends; and any business instructions if you own a business.

These seven items are the roadmap to your life. Create them, put them in a safe and secure place that is easily accessible seven days a week such as a home safe, then tell the person with your power of attorney where it is and how to retrieve it if this becomes necessary. If you are a business owner, you also need to do business succession or conclusion planning in order to preserve as many business assets as possible.

Leo Dunn is an attorney and counselor-at-law practicing in Harrisburg with a focus on the estate planning needs of the GLBT community. He may be reached at leo@leodunnlaw.com

Hershey Theatre Receives 2009 Best of Hershey Award

Hershey Theatre has been selected for the 2009 Best of Hershey Award in the Entertainment Service category by the U.S. Commerce Association (USCA). The USCA "Best of Local Business" Award Program recognizes outstanding local businesses throughout the country.

Each year, the USCA identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2009 USCA Award Program focused on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the USCA and data provided by third parties.

Linda Tedford Leads Susquehanna Chorale Season Nov. 15

Central Pennsylvania's Susquehanna Chorale launches a new season of classical favorites and iconic modern compositions, promising to enchant all lovers and all levels of choral music enthusiasts.

Under the tutelage of Linda Tedford, founder and conductor of this Grammy-considered, award-winning group of singers, audiences will enjoy three exceptional programs, plus have the opportunity to experience special performances with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra (November) and a featured performance at the ACDA Eastern Division Convention concerts in Philadelphia (February).

The season begins Nov. 15 at The Forum in Harrisburg with the Annual Youth Choral Festival – a not-to-be-missed celebration of youthful voices raised together in song. This annual event features talented young choral singers from three youth choirs (Susquehanna Youth, Young Women's and Children's) performing separately, then joining voices with the Susquehanna Chorale for an unforgettably moving performance of Anthem of Peace (composer Mack Wilberg).

In December, A Candlelight Christmas offers the perfect blend of sacred, spiritual, traditional and modern compositions in a program celebrating the joy of the season. The evening includes modern and renaissance-era renditions of Ave Maria and a setting of Silent Night sung a cappella by flickering candlelight. This heartfelt seasonal program with its soaring voices and audience participation will create special holiday memories. Performances will be held in three locations: December 18 at Market Square Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg; December 19 at Leffler Chapel, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown; and finally on December 20 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camp Hill.

Welcome the spring time with Ms. Tedford and the Chorale on May 7 at Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg and May 8 at Derry Presbyterian Church in Hershey as they celebrate Diverse Passions; an uplifting, joyful program of both sacred and secular music that will stir and arouse your passion for musical expression. From the xquisite Nocturnes of Morten Lauridsen, the familiar hymn setting, Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing to the modern fun of Duet for Two Cats, this program is sure to inspire the musical side of the soul!

For additional information, email the Susquehanna Chorale office at sc@susquehannachorale.org or call 717-533-7859. Information is also available online at susquehannachorale.org.

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New Year! New Resolutions! Same Responsibilities!

By Steven Palmer

Time for that annual physical?

As you're going to get your regular check up, do you ask your doctor to test you for HIV and other STD's? Most doctors will not bring this up unless you initiate the conversation. An HIV test should be a routine part of your physical just like cholesterol, heart, and liver function tests. But it's not included unless you speak up –and yes, it does take some guts to be upfront with Dr. Cold Stethoscope sometimes.

If you are sexually active, whether you're always, sometimes, or never using protection, your HIV status is a good thing to know. It's recommended that you get checked every 3- 6 months. In a CDC study, 77% of young gay men who tested HIV-positive didn't think they had it. HIV doesn't discriminate and it has no unique face. The only way to know if you or someone else is positive or negative is to be tested by yourself or with that Mr. Someone.

Impaired judgments can turn good intentions into a lifelong commitment to regular blood tests and eventually taking pills every single day. You know how it starts - you've got on your favorite tunes, fresh cut, new clothes, and you're getting ready to hit the club. Looking great at the club you have a few drinks and "party a lil." You meet the man of your dreams, go back to his house, and make a decision – or fail to make one – that could affect you for the rest of your life. Don't let substances make your choices for you – you're smarter than that.

A "normal life" can seem boring – until it's not there anymore. Wouldn't you rather protect yourself and continue living your normal life?

Consider getting tested for HIV this year. It may not seem like it in the post-holiday haze, but you'd really rather know.

Contact: Steven Palmer @ steven@aca-pa.com; 717-233-7190. M4M is a component of AIDS Community Alliance.

Mark Your Calendar: 3rd Annual GSA Leadership Summit February 26

The 3rd Annual GSA Leadership Summit takes place Fri., Feb. 26, 2010 at Dickinson College. "Many individuals and organizations have participated in this event in some capacity over the past couple years, whether moderating a session, serving on a panel, or volunteering to help the day run smoothly. We need you again!" says Louie Marven, Director of Administration and Youth Services, LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central Pennsylvania.

The Summit is the only event of its kind in central Pennsylvania where LGBTQA students and professionals are provided with a day-long safe space to share stories, learn new skills, and work toward making the region a more welcoming place for all people.

Contact: lmarven@centralpalgbtcenter.org; www.centralpalgbtcenter.org; (717) 920-9534

Lancaster events

Pennsylvania Guild Fine Craft Fair
November 8 – November 9
Manheim Township High School
Lancaster, PA

1st Annual Lancaster Arts & Crafts Christmas Festival
November 13 – November 15
Lancaster County Convention Center
Lancaster, PA

First Friday
December 4
Lancaster Arts Hotel
Lancaster, PA

Winterfest in Mount Joy
December 5
Downtown Mount Joy
Mount Joy, PA

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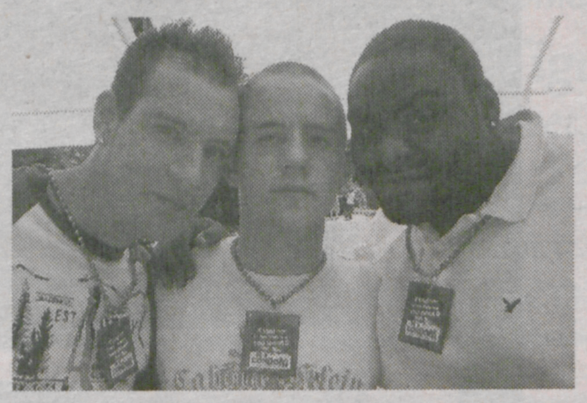
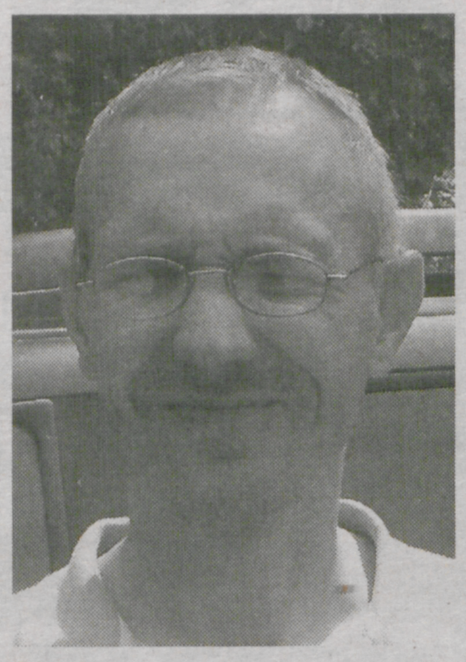
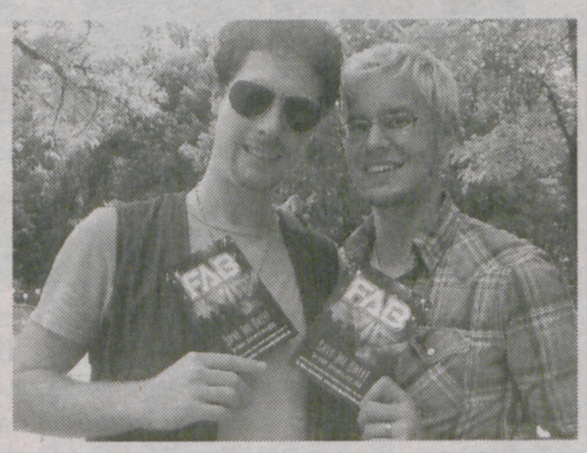
Harrisburg Gayborhood Bars Host Customer Picnic

Stallion's Entertainment Complex teamed up with all the downtown Harrisburg gay bars – Strawberry, Brownstone and Neptune's Lounge – for a Customer Appreciation Picnic.

"It's was a free day for our customers to enjoy themselves on us, the gay bars of Harrisburg," said lead organizer Stallion's DJ Barry. This year included all ages. "In the past we had only invited 21 and older." The event often draws as many as 300-400 and treats customers with free beer, soda, food, entertainment, swimming pool, and volleyball. The event was held at a private picnic grounds location.







Palm Springs California

Few places in the world can claim the sheer quantity of gay-friendly accommodations that Palm Springs does - you'll find resorts, most of them clothing-optional and male-oriented, set throughout town. In recent years, many Palm Springs properties have undergone extensive and impressive, upgrades.

Even better news for visitors interested in staying at a gay-friendly but not necessarily gay-exclusive property: a slew of historic boutique hotels and mainstream resorts have been given retro-chic makeovers, and many of these stylish pads have begun actively jockeying for a slice of the LGBT tourism pie. Several new spots have opened here, too. If you love Palm Springs, but you're not so much a fan of clothing-optional, single-gender accommodations, you've got plenty of great gay-friendly choices.

Now for the tricky part: with so many great choices, it can be challenging deciding where to stay. With that in mind, here's a cheat sheet detailing a good variety of the city's best gay-exclusive and gay-friendly accommodations.

Getting Your Spa On…

A couple of gay resorts in town have impressive, full-service spas among their amenities. The already quite successful men's getaway, La Dolce Vita, opened a small, high-quality spa in 2009 - here you can book any number of enticing treatments, including deep-hydration facials (definitely helpful in arid Palm Springs) and seaweed-infused body wraps. This friendly 20-room resort with two pools and airy, smartly furnished rooms is set along a quiet residential street yet just a short walk from several great restaurants.

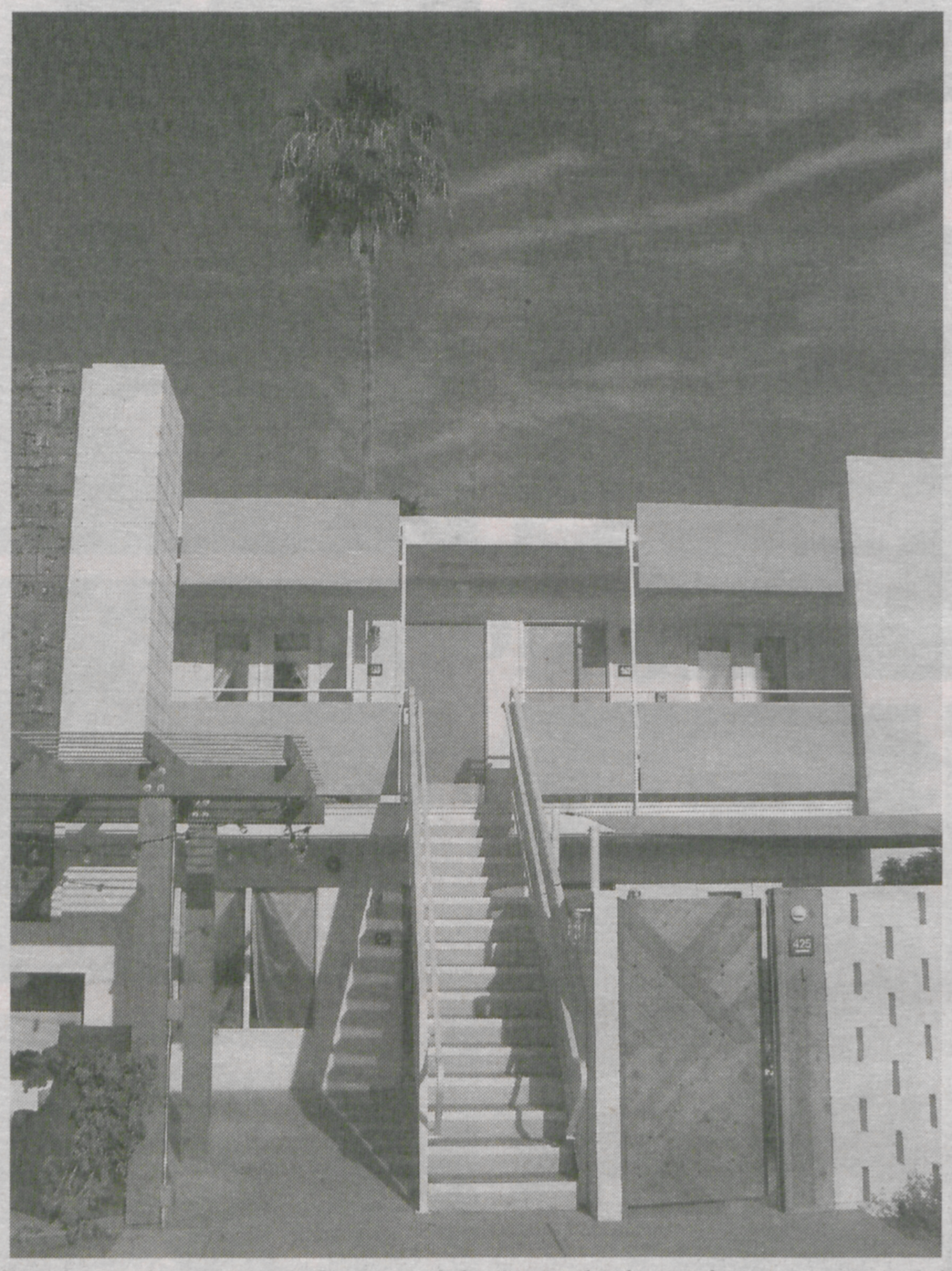
The plush East Canyon Resort, which caters mostly to gay men but also welcomes women (it's not clothing-optional) became the first gay resort in town to open a full-service spa - complete with facials, massage, body treatments, and shiatsu. Since it opened several years ago, it's been one of the most talked-about gay getaways in the West. This lushly landscaped Spanish Colonial complex has large, handsome rooms with Sony stereos with MP3 inputs, DVDs, large flat-screen TVs, top-quality linens, and earthy desert tones.

Some Gay Guy's Faves

It's sometimes tough to distinguish the many properties in the Warm Sands neighborhood, home to about a dozen gay resorts. Hacienda Warm Sands deserves consideration for being the best of them all. In-room accents, depending on the suite, include Saltillo-tile floors, Asian rugs, teak and bamboo furniture, double showers, and custom kitchens with high-end appliances. Rates include some of the most lavish breakfasts and lunches of any resort in town. One of the friskier men's resorts, nearby Inndulge has 24 rooms and draws a lively, sexually open bunch (the 12-man hot tub is very popular). The staff is fun-loving, accommodations are spacious and bright, and the pool is one of the best in town.

A stellar choice in the San Lorenzo area, a few blocks south, is Santiago, whose 24 large rooms (furnished with contemporary light-wood furniture and VCR-DVD-CD players) overlook a huge rectangular pool - there's also a 12-man sauna. Another reliable spot along the same street is Chestnutz, which has been going strong for nearly 15 years. This laid-back spot with a loyal repeat clientele has a nice variety of rooms, some with full kitchens and private patios. The owners are highly knowledgeable about area dining and nightlife, and the extensive grounds carefully maintained.

Friendly and enthusiastic owners operate over



Terrazzo guest house, and they've made plenty of notable upgrades over the years. This is a laid-back place with Southwestern-inspired decor, and the staff works hard to make guests feel pampered - a full complement of breakfast, lunch, and snack foods is included. The only slight drawback is a bit of noise from the busy road outside. Another men's spot that's been gaining in popularity in recent years, in part thanks to the hard work of its efficient and friendly owners, is the Spanish-style Warm Sands Villas, which lies right in the heart of the neighborhood for which its named. The 27 attractively refurbished rooms have beautiful stonework, and some larger units have kitchens and fireplaces.

Cozier Men's Properties

An intimate, relative newcomer to Palm Springs, the handsomely furnished and well-priced Casa Ocotillo is a terrific little gem. The artfully restored 1930s hacienda has just six suites and bungalows, each with distinctive, individually furnished rooms. Offering a luxurious, romantic vibe with reasonable rates, this secluded yet centrally located getaway has such handy amenities as a fully stocked guest kitchen, a small but attractive pool, and even some pet-friendly rooms.

Another terrific spot that's also notable because it dates to the 1950s and ranks among the city's most distinctive examples of mid-century modern architecture, Triangle Inn has fun, helpful hosts and attracts a similarly easygoing and friendly clientele. In addition to eight beautifully furnished suites (some with full kitchens), there's a four-bedroom house - a nice option for groups of friends planning a vacation together. Furnished with striking mid-century modern furniture done in bold, elegant colors, the Century Palms Springs is close to the cluster of very social resorts in the Warm Sands area, but it's a relatively quiet and private space. There's a beautiful patio affording great views of the mountains, and rooms have such thoughtful touches as LATHER-brand bath amenities and flat-panel TVs with DVD players.

Where the Women Are

The majority of lesbians who vacation in Palm Springs choose a mainstream hotel, but the town does have a pair of superb women-oriented resorts. Upscale Casitas Laquita is a hip and attractive complex of Spanish Mission-inspired casitas - many with kiva-style fireplaces and all with full kitchens. The grounds are absolutely gorgeous, with an on-site barbecue and a small basement library-lounge where guests sometimes mingle. In-room spa treatments are available. Queen of Hearts is also a real stunner, and it's a great value year-round. Again, Southwestern-style decor predominates, and rooms have tile floors, VCRs, hair dryers, fine linens, and sumptuous furnishings; several have kitchens. The grounds are bright and striking, with orange trees, strings of white lights, and a pretty pool that's bikini-top-optional.

Swank Mainstream Resorts

The talk of the town in 2009 among fans of posh resorts was the re-opening of the Palm Springs Riviera Resort & Spa, a smashingly stylish - some might say over-the-top - property that has undergone a spectacular transformation. Set across 24 acres and with several wings of dramatically decorated rooms and suites set around two large and scene-y pools, the Riviera draws plenty of bon vivants with its fabulous SpaTerre, which offers a full slate of Indonesian- and Thai-style treatments, and the hip Circa 59 Restaurant, which serves first-rate contemporary American food. The centrally located Renaissance Palm Springs, slated to open early in 2010, is actually an elegant refurbishment of the former Wyndham Palm Springs (which remains open as a Wyndham until this time). This venerable property has been host of many gay parties in Palm Springs, but it's been much in need of the makeover it will be receiving from Marriott Hotels, of which the Renaissance brand is a part.

Stylish Boutique Hotels

A whimsical and ultra-hip newcomer is the gay-popular Ace Hotel & Swim Club, part of a Portland, Oregon-based brand of offbeat lodgings. This distinctive property has all sorts of cool attributes, including spa and an expansive pool and sundeck (the Swim Club) and a funny restaurant (King's Highway) and bar (the Amigo Room), where scenesters mingle over tasty modern-diner fare and groovy

continued on page 25 >

Men's Night Out

Harrisburg's Metropolitan Community Church recently held a successful Men's Night Out of bowling. Interim Pastor Rev. Charles Tigard, left, says "We've been organizing activities in the community both for parishioners and non-parishioners. We just want to bring the community together for some fun."

Out of Town con'td

cocktails. Indeed, this youthful, social resort has been well-received by 20- and 30-somethings. The retro rooms are a trip, each with old-school turntables and vintage LPs from the '60s and '70s, low-slung beds, and honor bars stocked with plenty of top-shelf booze and unusual snacks.

Close to the gay nightlife along Arenas Road, the posh Hotel Zoso is another notable design-minded property, its luxurious rooms done with such contemporary items as Herman Miller desk chairs, Bodum coffee presses, and Aveda bath products. Guests can nosh on tasty food in the mod restaurant, Eatz, and or sip wine in the jazzy lounge, Z Bar.

The Viceroy Hotel is Palm Springs' chicest small hotel, a favorite of celebs (Barry Manilow often stops by the chichi white-on-white bar-restaurant, Citron). Many of the 70 units have full kitchens and hot tubs. It's the kind of place that revels in its shag carpeting and retro-glamorous appearance. Orbit In comprises two funky properties, the Hideaway and the Oasis, both of which contain curvaceous, low-slung furnishings, many of them created by interior design legends of the 1940s through '60s. Guests can order facials, wraps, and massage treatments from the extensive spa menu.

Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

The Little Black Book

- Ace Hotel & Swim Club (760-325-9910, www.acehotel.com/palmsprings)
- Casa Ocotillo (800-996-4108, www.casaocotillo.com)
- Casitas Laquita (760-416-9999, www.casitaslaquita.com)
- Century Palm Springs (800-475-5188, www.centurypalmsprings.com)
- Chestnutz (800-621-6973, www.chestnutz.com).
- East Canyon Hotel & Spa (877-324-6835, www.eastcanyonps.com)
- Hacienda at Warm Sands (800-359-2007, www.thehacienda.com)
- Hotel Zoso (760-325-9676, www.hotelzoso.com)
- Inndulge (800-833-5675, www.pridenation.com/inndulge)
- La Dolce Vita Resort & Spa (877-644-4111, www.ladolcevitaresort.com)
- Orbit In (www.orbitin.com)
- Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism (760-778-8415 or 800-927-7256, www.palm-springs.org)
- Palm Springs Riviera Resort & Spa (866-588-8311, www.psriviera.com)
- Queen of Hearts (888-275-9903, www.queenofheartsps.com)
- Renaissance Palm Springs (formerly Wyndham Palm Springs) (760-322-6000, www.marriott.com)
- Santiago Resort (800-710-7729, www.santiagoresort.com)
- Terrazzo (866-837-7996, www.terrazzo-ps.com)
- Triangle Inn (800-732-7555, www.triangle-inn.com)
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Artist Anthony Smolenski: Create Because You Must

By Frank Pizzoli

"Eventually, I would love to sustain myself completely on my art, that's a big dream of mine," says Elizabethtown artist and graphic designer Anthony Smolenski, founder of Antaesthetic.

It's a dream he's had since childhood.

"The earliest artistic moments for me go back to when I was a small child, doodling on every piece of paper, notebook, and magazine I could find," he remembers. Smolenski says he had "a weird creative obsession with drawing faces on every inanimate object. I would go through magazines and give personalities to every faceless mass, cover to cover." His fondest moments as a child were in nature or in museums, marveling at the intricacies of natural beauty and art.

Artist & graphic designer Anthony Smolenski

He started out a psychology major and then switched to graphic design. "I changed colleges and went down that track, and certainly had a business plan for my design business, but my passion for art never really went away, and just intensified as design clients found more ways to dilute really creative ideas into really shallow, uninspired ones.

If Smolenski has creative dreams he also fears his worst nightmares. In describing the balance he strives to keep between creativity, art, and paying the bills, Smolenski chides about clients. "Can you please put a cat with a Santa hat in the corner, and maybe make those words blink? That will really get their attention." Sooner or later, he says, those sorts of requests will drive a creative person mad.

As an artist Smolenski is drawn to faces and interesting people, characters, physiognomy, anatomy, psychology, social constructs. "The human form is an amazing thing. Whatever your spiritual beliefs, you have to admit that it's absolutely an incredible piece of work, from the skin to the nervous system to the cells that comprise it." Nature in general has that effect on him. "It's so easy to get jaded by the flatness of technology, and machine-made materiality, but I will always prefer natural beauty over reality television."

The last thing he wants to do was is approach art with only a business slant. "I think when you're only thinking about the money and 'what people will buy,' you're missing the point of the creative drive within you.

As for a business budget, that's always a tough one, he says. "Keeping my day job has been really important too, not only for the budgetary concerns of purchasing my materials, but also to stay in touch with what the world is doing and feeling. It makes the art more relatable. Money-wise there's nothing worse than feeling like you need to paint an amazing painting just so you can pay the bills," he says.

Smolenski's mentors have been his parents who have always encouraged creativity and are creative themselves. "They're both creative people themselves in different ways. Mom is definitely more of a charismatic creative thinker. My dad is a jack-of-all-trades with a bevy of skills. They taught me to 'think outside the box' in all of my skills. I couldn't thank them more because I have been able to apply that type of lateral thinking to all aspects of my life."

His advice to emerging artists is "stay true to what you love to do and create. If you love doing it, someone else will too." Another extremely important step is to get out there and show your work, meet people, ask for help, and take constructive criticism openly. "You need to know what people are thinking; but don't take it to heart, it is just an opinion. You will begin to find where your market is and isn't."

Smolenski recently presented a painting (shown here) to the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce for hanging in their office.

While it's important to stay true to what you love to do, make sure you never stop learning and finding new ways to do things, innovating, challenging yourself, Smolenski says. The last thing the art world needs is another artist who thinks he's better than everyone else and that no one can duplicate his paintings of snowy cottages. Until the dollar stores start selling knock-offs from China for $3 a piece. Don't be that guy. Keep creating. Do art because you love it. Create because you can't not be creative.

Painting (Equal, 24 x 36) presented by Anthony Smolenski to Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

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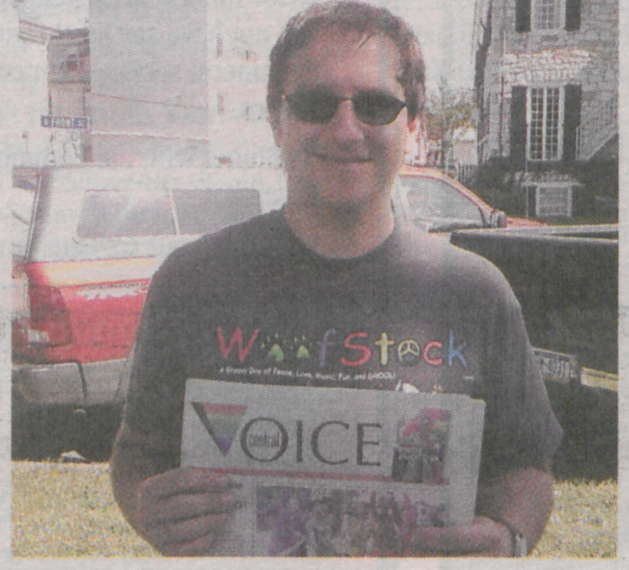

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Kathleen Madigan
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Paula Poundstone
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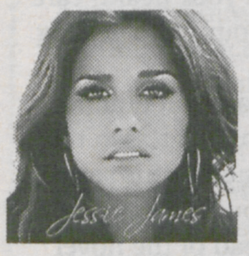
REVIEWS | BOOKS DVDs CDs

Space Cowboy
Those familiar with Lady Gaga's platinum album "The Fame" will know her bold rallying cry from the song "Starstruck," her duet with Space Cowboy featuring Flo Rida: "Space Cowboy just play that track." Indeed, the heavy bass, neck-breaking clap, sharp synths and duet vocals on that album's "Starstruck" are courtesy of supa-producer/instrumentalist/vocalist Space Cowboy. As Lady Gaga's collaborator and main foil in her intergalactic adventures, Space Cowboy has built a loyal following as enigmatic musician/dj/producer extraordinaire.

N'dambi
Every so often, a musical soul emerges from the underground with the inescapable talent; artistry and charisma that marks the arrival a gathering storm. Pink Elephant is the Stax Records debut from N'dambi, a songwriter with emotional purpose and rare honesty. The striking vocalist, pianist and composer from Dallas, Texas, known for her signature afro and fiery style, possesses the intuitive perception and powerful creativity that ensures an essential contribution to modern R&B and soul.

Rufus Wainwright
In response to the massive praise from fans and critics alike during his acclaimed and celebrated 2007 Release The Stars Tour of which The New York Times dubbed "a tour de force", the Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, Rufus Wainwright is back with a highly anticipated new live CD/DVD Milwaukee at Last!!!. This "must have" package is in stores now on Decca.

Jessie James
Destined to steal her way into the heart of pop and create her own legend, Jessie James rides in as a new artist signed to Mercury Records, a division of Island Def Jam Music Group (IDJ). This petite powerhouse with amazing vocal power and range will soon release "Wanted" (co-written by James and American Idol's Kara DioGuardi). It's the first single from Jessie's debut album, which she has been recording in Los Angeles, New York and Nashville.



Whitney Houston
Reports out of London describe sheer pandemonium as the audience full of VIPs, press and tastemakers raved and danced in the aisle over Whitney's new album! The "Queen Of All Divas" was greeted by a standing ovation after Chief Creative Officer of Sony Music Entertainment, Clive Davis presented select tracks from the album.

Ledisi
Soul singer/songwriter Ledisi promises a to keep it "raw, spiritual, uninhibited, and aggressive, and tell it all" with her new album 'Turn Me Loose' (out Aug 18th on Verve Forecast). 2007 GRAMMY Best New Artist nominee Ledisi (rhymes with legacy) took the world by storm with her chart-topping Verve Forecast debut 'Lost & Found,' but says the new record is all about "the desire to be free and embrace change."

Noisettes
Wild Young Hearts, the long-awaited second album by effervescent UK pop trio Noisettes, which debuted at #1 on the iTunes UK album chart was recently released.
The new album's hit single, "Don't Upset the Rhythm," was a #2 smash on the UK national chart. The follow-up single, the '60s-tinged soul gem "Never Forget You," is scheduled for release on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mariah Carey
First came the emancipation, then came energy and power, and now come Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel, the new album by international superstar Mariah Carey is now out. The first new single pick from the album is "Obsessed," and is a radio hit.

Imogen Heap
Imogen Heap, British singer-songwriter-producer and two time Grammy nominee released her much anticipated new solo album Ellipse through RCA Records. The same day Imogen wrapped up her tour in support of her last breakthrough album Speak For Yourself, she delved into the writing process for Ellipse.

LaRoux
British synth-pop sensation La Roux are set to hit the shores of North America for a slew of highly anticipated performances this summer. 21-year-old Elly Jackson and producer co-hort Ben Langmaid, the talented South London duo who make up La Roux, have made an impressive impact on the UK's music scene since joining forces just two years ago.

Little Boots
British dance-pop sensation Little Boots has announced the upcoming release of her much-anticipated EP, "Illuminations." The album serves as an ideal introduction to Little Boots' acclaimed brand of futuristic electro-pop. The five-track EP features rare and exclusive tracks alongside the new single, "New In Town," and the irrepressible anthem, "Stuck on Repeat."

Health Update

2010 Healthcare Equality Survey Project

The Healthcare Equality Index (HEI), a joint project of GLMA and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Family Project, works to identify the best practices and policies with respect to equal treatment of lgbt individuals and families. The HEI project is working to establish nationwide standards in order to reduce discrimination and ensure quality care to lgbt individuals and their families. If you work at a hospital in the U.S. and are authorized to participate on a facility's behalf, please follow the link below to indicate your hospital affiliation and we will send you or another individual at your hospital an invitation to participate in the survey.

To complete the survey, go to: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=7a_2fTFsEgeej5QzGv1iXuhQ_3d_3d

New Report Documents LGBT Health Disparities in New York State

The Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation has released a report titled "LGBT Health and Human Services Needs in New York State" showing health disparities for lgbt populations in New York State. The report found that about 4.1 percent of the general population self-identifies as lgb on government funded, population based surveys. It also found that lgbt individuals have poor access to healthcare and that there is a lack of culturally competent providers which causes access problems for lgbt individuals and their families.

For more information, visit http://www.prideagenda.org/tabid/125/Default.aspx

Social, Sexual Barriers Faced by Black Gay Men Could Influence HIV Risk, Prevalence

New research suggests that the reason behind the higher risk of HIV transmission among black gay men may be a result of closer knit social groups and a background prevalence rather than engaging in higher risk behaviors than other gay men.

For more information, visit http://dailyreports.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2009/July/08/HIV-070809-Gay-Men-Study.aspx

The State of the LGBT Aging Movement

The Elder Law Project, the lgbt senior movement section of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, turns ten this year. Since its inception, the Elder Law Project has worked to raise awareness of lgbt senior issues to legal, medical, and social service professionals around the country. Now is a crucial time for lgbt seniors and advocates, because of the economic crisis, and it is a better opportunity than ever to make sure lgbt senior issues are on the table of health care reform.

For more information, visit the http://dailyreports.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2009/July/08/HIV-070809-Gay-Men-Study.aspx.

Russian Leaders Examine Keystone Human Services

Ten Russian leaders participating in the Open World Program recently spent several days in the region examining adult and children social service programs. Keystone Human Services International hosted the delegation.

Managed by the independent Open World Leadership Center at the U.S. Library of Congress, Open World deepens cooperation between the US and the countries of Eurasia and the Baltic States. The program develops networks of leaders who gained firsthand exposure to America's democratic, accountable government and free-market system.

While in central Pennsylvania, the delegates observed Keystone Human Services programs, including Capital Area Head Start, Susquehanna Service Dogs, Early Intervention, Family Preservation and Reunification, Family Based Mental Health, The Keystone Center for Children with Autism, and Keystone Residence. They also visited Capital Area Intermediate Unit's education programs and the Focused on Living program.

Local legislators personally hosted the delegation on a tour the state capital and presented an overview of American government, civic institutions, free enterprise and voluntary organizations as they relate to social issues and services.

The visiting delegates were Yuriy Gushchin, Yevgeniy Koren, Yelena Pavlova, Yelena Volodina, Oksana Storozhuk, Irina Balashova, Viktor Chukayev, Zuliya Gedgafova, Anastasiya Ryazanova, and Marina Semenovskaya. Two Russian facilitators also accompanied the group, Olga Safronova and Natalya Parkhomenko.

Charles J. Hooker III, CEO, Keystone Human Services International, stated "We are honored to be chosen again to participate in the Open World Russia Civic Hosting Program. The delegates bring their vast experience into our world providing us the opportunity to see programs and services in a new light. We not only highlight the knowledge and social service practices of our community but we learn from the experiences of the Russian delegates who are Social Service leaders in their country."

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Book Club Grows

The Harrisburg Book Club sponsored by The LGBT Community Center tripled in size at its second gathering Oct. 18 at Harrisburg's Midtown Scholar Bookstore, across from Broad Street Market. The book club is one of three - Harrisburg, York, Lititz - sponsored by the center. Info: www.centralpalgbtcenter.org.

U.S. Senate Passes Hate Crimes Bill

In a 68-29 vote, the U.S. Senate passed a bill that would add sexual orientation and gender identity to federal hate crimes legislation.

The Senate voted in July to attach the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act, named in honor of Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard and Texas resident James Byrd, Jr., to the Defense Authorization for the 2010 fiscal year. The House of Representatives passed the bill earlier this month. At press time, the president has pledged to sign it once it comes to his desk.

Activists within the movement for lgbt rights were quick to applaud the vote as historic.

"We're in the home stretch," Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese said. "We look forward to President Obama signing it into law; our nation's first major piece of civil rights legislation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Too many in our community have been devastated by hate violence. We now can begin the important steps to erasing hate in our country."

Judy Shepard, president of the Matthew Shepard Foundation's board, agreed.

"Dennis and I are extremely proud of the Senate for once again passing this historic measure of protection for victims of these brutal crimes," she said. "Knowing that the president will sign it, unlike his predecessor, has made all the hard work this year to pass it worthwhile. Hate crimes continue to affect far too many Americans who are simply trying to live their lives honestly, and they need to know that their government will protect them from violence, and provide appropriate justice for victims and their families."

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Rights, echoed the Shepards, Solmonese and others.

"Transgender people have been waiting so many years for assistance from the federal government in addressing the rampant and disproportional violence that we face," she said. "Today we move one step closer to our goal of ending violence motivated by hatred."

The attack against College Point, Queens, resident Jack Price earlier this month and far too many others certainly prove legislation alone does not deter those who seek to commit violence based on anti-lgbt bias or hatred. The Senate's vote, however, sends a very powerful message to the country the federal government is willing to recognize lgbt Americans are entitled to basic dignity and protections. Today's vote is indeed historic, and I look forward to the president's signature.

Please Don't Spread Swine Flu

By Dr. Stephen Ostroff
Acting Physician General
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The new school year is well underway, and as expected, so are more cases of novel A/H1N1 in schools around the state. Wherever children come together, there are opportunities to spread this flu virus. But you - parents, students and school staff members - can help reduce the spread of this disease.

The Department of Health strongly recommends children with influenza-like illness stay home until 24 hours after their fever leaves without the use of fever reducing medication. The same applies to teachers and staff. When you are sick, the best place to be is home.

We encourage parents to plan in advance in case their children have to stay home from school or their child's school closes for a period of time. Talk to your employer now about whether or not you're allowed to work from home or whether you have sick time that can be used.

As the Acting Physician General, I also strongly recommend that you vaccinate your children against seasonal flu and as the novel A/H1N1 vaccine now begins to become available, your child should receive this vaccine too. Vaccines do not guarantee they won't get the flu, but they are the best preventive measure available.

Symptoms of the new influenza virus are similar to those of regular or seasonal flu and include sudden fever and cough with muscle aches, fatigue and lack of appetite. Many people with this infection also have runny nose, sore throat and watery eyes, and some also have nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Always remember the flu is contagious to others. So, in addition to staying home when you are sick, other ways to avoid spreading illness include:

1. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze; if you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve, not your hands.
2. Avoid touching your face especially your eyes, nose and mouth.
3. Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
4. Keep frequently used surfaces clean.
5. Stay at home if you are sick.
6. When the H1N1 vaccination becomes available, talk with your health care provider about you and your child getting one.

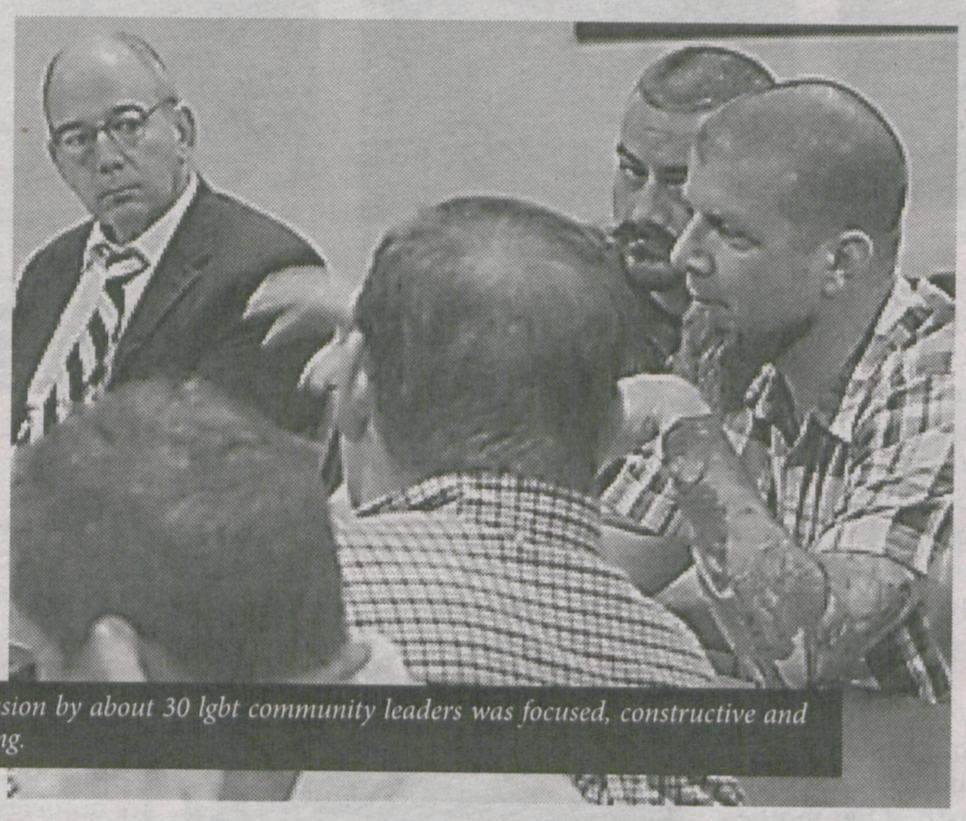
If all of us do our part and practice these simple steps, we can help lessen the severity of pandemic influenza this season in the commonwealth. You can learn more about preventing the spread of the novel H1N1 virus by calling toll free at 1-877-PA-HEALTH or by visiting www.H1N1inPA.com.

FDA Panel Backs Gardasil Use by Men

Federal health advisers say Merck's vaccine Gardasil, which already is used to prevent cervical cancer in women, should also be approved to stop genital warts in men.

A Food and Drug Administration panel voted unanimously with one abstention that the vaccine is effective for blocking the human papilloma virus, or HPV, in males ages 9 to 26. The panel voted 7-1 that the vaccine is safe for those patients. HPV causes warts and certain rare cancers of the genitals in both men and women.

Community Center con't'd



The discussion by about 30 lgbt community leaders was focused, constructive and encouraging.

says Maloney. Last fall, the center offered "Shy Girls' Social" and "Gay Men's Speed Dating" at York's Club XS. Cathy Nelson, well known in the women's community, promoted a retreat. In cooperation with Dauphin County Library's Lew Maurer, the center established an ongoing book club in three locations throughout the region. "Send us your events. The center can help promote," Marven says.

The center established eight programs that took place last September alone. Also in the works or offered once already are nature walks, ghost tours, a bus trip to the National Equality March in Washington, DC, gallery openings, leadership training, and much more.

Many individuals at the August Community Leaders meeting were eager to get involved with the Center's programming efforts. A direct result of that meeting was the formation of the Health and Wellness Council which is now meeting to plan specific programs around aging, HIV/AIDS, transgender health and other relevant issues of concern to the LGBT community. This council, as well as others like the Youth Advisory Council, is actively looking for more volunteers to contribute to the process. The importance of community buy-in has been stressed by the center: "come forward as an individual or organization and use our resources to make it happen," Martin challenges.

So far, 33 organizations have been asked to provide information on programming needs. "We want to avoid duplication. We want to collaborate and cooperate. If we find that more than one organization or individual is interested in the same ideas, we'll suggest that we all work together," Maloney says.

Contact: Louie Marven, Director of Administration & Youth Services and/or Sean Maloney, Interim Program Director; LGBT Community Center Coalition, 221 N. Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17101, (717) 920-9534, www.centralpalgbtcenter.org

Community Center Coalition Timeline:

Players: *The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), EGAL (Equity for Gays and Lesbians, under the auspices of TFEC), youth organization Common Roads (recently merged with Center)*

2005 – Initial discussions among stakeholders begin
2006 – Leaders selected to form Bylaws – Marlene Kanuck, Greg King, Ted Martin, Ben Dunlap
2009 – Common Roads merges with coalition
2009 – FAB fundraiser brought back to support effort

social organizations & recreational clubs

Gay & Lesbian Artisan Pride
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Phone: (717)732-0233
Contact: Michael Reed
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Calls and Emails Can be made Days/ Evenings
Email: mreeddesigns@yahoo.com

Harrisburg Gay Men's & Women's Volleyball
3rd and Bridge St
New Cumberland, PA
Phone: 717.233.3172
Contact: Jim
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.

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PO Box 266
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Phone: 717.232.8382
Contact: Judy Chambers
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available

HOWL
HOWL hanging out with lesbians. Group of 140 women.
Contact: Gina Bowers-Miller
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: howlofpa@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.hmtl
Other web address http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howlofpa/ to join

Lambda Car Club Int'l Central PA Region
Organization of GLBT people who are interested in collectable automobiles
Contact: Robert Miller, President
1721 Logan St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102
PH: 610 496-5651
3623 Green Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717.238.9766
Contact: John Ball
Wheelchair Accessible: no
Hours: Meet monthly at different members houses, call for info
Email: buickbum2@aol.com

Rainbow Pride Rural Project
This project intends to create support for the GLBT community living in rural York, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. It is funded by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and housed within Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located in uptown Harrisburg, Pa.
2973 Jefferson St.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17110-2127
Phone: 717-236-7387
Contact: Kevin E. Burrell
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: kevinb2004@msn.com

Students Advocating LGBTA Equality
Shippensburg University Cumberland Union Building
Box 89
Shippensburg, Pa 17265
Phone: 717-477-1616
Contact: Travis Eichelberger
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: susale@gmail.com
Website: www.ship.edu/~msa/SALE.htm

Susquehanna Club
Group camping open to LGBT people and their friends.
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: camp@susq.org
Website: www.susq.org

Susquehanna Valley Bears
PO Box 11, Manchester, PA 17345
Contact: John Bowermaster
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: info@svbears.com
Website: www.svbears.com

The Pennsmen, Inc
The Pennsmen, Inc are Central PA's glbt leather/levi/kink social organization. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Neptune Lounge @ 3:00pm
PO Box 401
HARRISBURG, PA 17108-0401
Phone: 717-232-3785
Contact: Steven James
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org
Website: www.pennsmen.org

The Rainbow Bowling League
The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.
Phone: 763-8444
Contact: Mark or Robert
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

Women's Circle
c/o Bobbi Carmitchell
Locust Lane Music, P.O. Box 8301
Lancaster, Pa 17604
Phone: 717.872.4512
Contact: Bobbi Carmitchell
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: bobbi@womenscircle.org
Website: www.womenscircle.org

Don't Worry, Bea Arthur

Community Says Farewell to Funny Philanthropist

By Winnie McCroy
Central Voice NYC
Correspondent

America's most legendary laugh-makers gathered at New York City's Majestic Theater on Sept. 14 to bid a fond farewell to kindhearted comedienne Bea Arthur, who lost her 10-year struggle against cancer this April. Hostess Angela Lansbury opened the event singing "The Man in the Moon" from Mame, the Broadway hit in which the two women starred.

Bea Arthur began her career in 1955 with the musical Plain and Fancy, and went on to perform many roles, including Yente in the 1964 premiere of Fiddler on the Roof. She received a Tony Award for her work in Mame, and later, won Emmy Awards as the title character in the 1970's sitcom Maude, and as Dorothy Zbornak on The Golden Girls.

Arthur's friends and contemporaries took to the stage to reminisce about her impeccable comic timing, her love of animals, and her penchant for walking barefoot down Ninth Avenue.

Bea Arthur's longtime accompanist, Billy Goldenberg, and Ali Forney Center's Executive Director, Carl Siciliano.

Maude co-star Adrienne Barbeau said Arthur taught her the correct way to eat a hard-boiled egg—with loads of Tabasco. Rosie O'Donnell sang the theme song from Maude, and later, Arthur's longtime accompanist Billy Goldenberg played one of the star's favorite tunes. Sons Daniel and Matthew Saks shared family movies with the crowd, and spoke of how much they missed their mother.

Arthur's Maude co-star, Adrienne Barbeau.

Golden Girl Rue McClanahan

Other guests included Norman Lear, Zoe Caldwell, Chita Rivera, legendary comedy duo Stiller and Meara, and drag queen Coco Peru, who attributed her love of sushi to Arthur's influence.

Rue McClanahan nearly brought the crowd to tears with a tale of the star's kindness after the death of her mother, only to move the room back to laughs by retelling a story of a Sardi's cocktail party at which Arthur drunkenly referred to Golden Girls co-star Betty White as a "cunt."

Television writer Charlie Hauck told of Arthur's kindness toward animals, relaying a tale of Arthur arriving at the set of Golden Girls soaking wet, with a huge German Shepard she had found running down the expressway in the middle of a downpour. Thinking how excited the owner would be to discover that the prominent TV star had rescued their pet, Hauck was dumbstruck to discover that the dog actually belonged to Arthur's neighbor, Barbra Streisand.

Rosie O'Donnell

From her early work on Maude to her final performances as a somber babysitter on Malcolm in the Middle, Arthur's career was marked by excellence. Arthur's hard-drinking, ribald persona belied a tender heart; she was a relentless advocate for the less fortunate, working with PETA and other charities.

Among those participants who praised Arthur's generous philanthropy was Carl Siciliano, executive director of the Ali Forney Center, a program dedicated to helping homeless LGBT youth. Arthur first began helping the foundling project in 2005, after her friend, a prominent Broadway set designer, spoke to her of the organization's plight.

"When we started in 2002, the fact that thousands of gay kids were thrown into the streets was an unknown issue, even in the gay community. They don't want anyone to know they are homeless and have been rejected by their families," said Siciliano. "There was no advocacy group, so the fact that someone as prominent, respected, and beloved as Bea would say that she cared and would do anything for these kids meant so much. It was the turning point for our organization."

Arthur flew in from Los Angeles, met with the children, and performed at a benefit show that raised more than $43,000 for the organization. At the time, said Siciliano, Arthur was already frail from her private struggle against cancer. Still, she continued help The Ali Forney Center with both advocacy and financial support. The organization quickly grew from only a dozen beds to a nightly housing capacity for 58 youth, two drop-in centers, medical and counseling programs, job training, and transitional emergency housing for at-risk youth.

"We have become a comprehensive program, and I feel that when I look at her involvement in the organization, it was the turning point for us," said Siciliano. The organization has already announced plans to name their newest housing facility after Bea Arthur. The program continues to face high costs in housing and serving these children.

To donate or learn more, visit www.aliforneycenter.org

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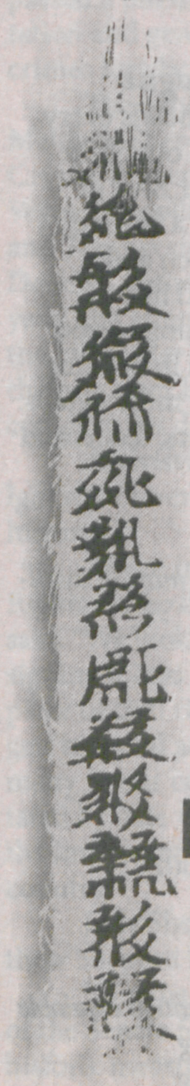

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MEAN MACHINE

Mixed Martial Arts Fighter Ryan Ford

By William Yeoman

"I'll knock out anyone who makes fun of me in my Ginch," warns Ryan "The Real Deal" Ford. And he means it too. Standing 5 feet 11 inches and weighing 170 pounds, the mighty-muscled, multi-tattooed Mixed Martial Arts welterweight fighter is the new celebrity face of underwear fave, Ginch Gonch. "Ginch Gonch reminds me to take at least two moments each day from my rigorous training and smile. After all, I'm living my childhood dream."

'In it to win it', Ford aims to become champion of the MFC (Maximum Fighting Championship) and the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) leagues. With his record of 5 wins and no losses, he's on his way. His most recent and most anticipated win was against Pete Spratt of the UFC via submission, where Ford first used the move he has become famous for, the Rear Naked Choke.

He is the son of retired boxer Allen Ford, once ranked third in the world and recently inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame. As the celebrity face of Ginch Gonch, the young Ford is making history of his own, becoming the first professional Martial Arts Fighter to win an endorsement contract with a leading underwear brand.

Q - How did you become the new face of Ginch Gonch?

A - A lot of my buddies wear it and I reached out to the company for some digs. After chatting with them, badda boom badda bing, I was in the back of a dump truck doing my thing.

Q- Did you have to fight former campaign model Benjamin Bradley for the job?

A- Who is Benjamin Bradley?

Q - He was one of the original Ginch Gonch boys.

A - Not familiar with him. So to answer your question, I didn't fight him. I don't fight 'boys' anyway.

Q - Fighting is in your blood. Is it true your dad was a boxing champ?

A - Yes, he was. My dad, Allan Ford, was ranked third in the world and was inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame.

Q - Did he inspire you to get into the ring?

A - I guess he did. I always wanted to be like Dad.

Q - But you went a different route – the mixed martial arts ring. Why?

A - I started boxing but it just wasn't hardcore enough for me. I wanted to go crazier in the ring, and nothing is more intense than MMA fighting.

Q - How do you explain the overwhelming popularity of the sport?

A - MMA fighting is raw and animalistic. It's not controlled. Anything can happen and that really appeals to a lot of people.

Q - Is the sport aware of its huge gay following?

A - Gays are guys and every guy likes to see a good fight.

Q - Yeah, but many gay men aren't watching for the fight. Many are watching because half naked guys wrestling is, well, pretty hot…

A - (Laughs) I don't know how to respond to that except to say that yeah, I'd agree I'm pretty hot.

Q - Is homophobia a problem in the league?

A - Not that I'm aware of.

Q- Would an "out" fighter be accepted?

A - If someone's hardcore enough to kick ass in the ring, they deserve to be there. What they do outside of the ropes doesn't matter after the bell rings.

Q - What would you say to guys who believe two grown men wrestling in a ring is pretty gay?

A - If it was said as an insult, I'd punchhim out. You know what, I'd punch him out anyway because hateful bigoted words should not be tolerated anymore.

Q- What has been your toughest match?

A - They've all been tough but I can say my favorite fight so far was when I won against Pete Spratt of the UFC. I brought him down with a Rear Naked Choke.

Q - What's a Rear Naked Choke hold?

A - It's a move where your arm wraps around your opponent's neck and then you grab your own biceps on the other arm. No one can get out of my Rear Naked Choke.

Q - Who is your biggest rival in the ring and how do you plan to bring him down?

A - Every single fighter in the league is my biggest rival. I'm bringing them all down!

Q - What is your ultimate goal?

A - My goal is to become welterweight champion of the MFC (Maximum Fighting Championship) and the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship). I'm on my way.

Q - You're the first Mixed Martial Arts fighter to win a national apparel campaign. Why were you chosen?

A - Because I'm rough and tough and I look great in my Ginches.

Q - Does your vigorous training help you look good in briefs?

A - I train three times a day including five mile runs, boxing, wrestling, kick boxing, weight lifting, strength and conditioning. Yeah, I'd say it helps.

Q - Ginch Gonch is a wild and crazy underwear brand. Are you as wild and crazy?

A - Look at me. What do you think? Yeah, I'm crazy. I like to party like a rockstar and kick ass "Real Deal" style in the ring.

Q - You've said in interviews that your athletic idol is ``Pretty Boy`` Floyd Mayweather. Why is that?

A - Because he walks the walk and talks the talk. He has incredible ambition and an animalistic passion for competing that makes him unstoppable.

Q - Do you subscribe to Ginch Gonch's philosophy of "live like a kid"?

A - You bet I do. Everyone has to have fun in life.

Q - Besides the new Load'N & Dump'N's, what is your favorite Ginch collection?

A - The multiple stars because they remind me what I'm shooting for.

Q - What do other fighters say about your underwear when they see you changing in the locker room? Have any dared to make fun of you?

A - No one has made fun of me. In fact, the opposite. I got all my buddies wearing Ginch in the ring now. Dudes are constantly asking me to get them free gear.

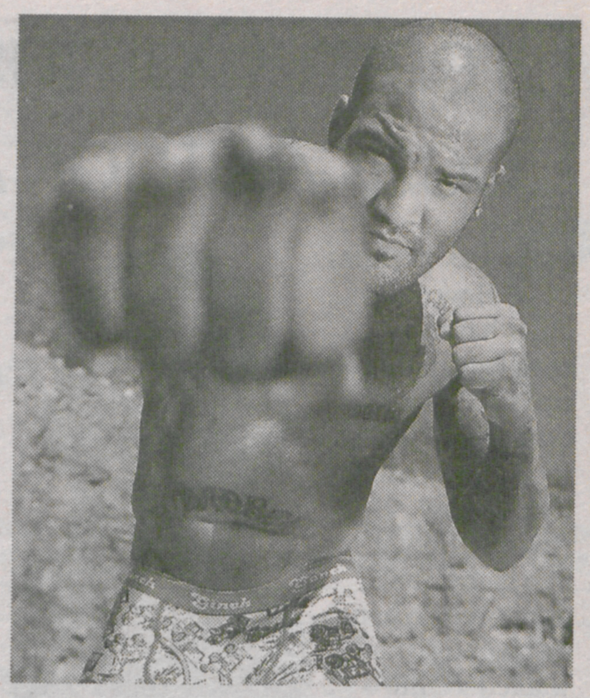
Q - How have your fans reacted to the campaign?

A - They love it man! I think they've come to expect crazy shit from me so they like it.

Q - The most important question: briefs or boxers?

A - Both. I switch depending on the day.

Ginch Gonch's newest line, The Load'N & Dump'N collection, featuring playful dump trucks, is in stores now. For more info, go to www.GinchGonch.com.



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Dream Comes True for Local Author Andrew Grey

By Frank Pizzoli

How many times have you sampled a product and said "I can do better than that!"

That's what local author Andrew Grey, a pen name, said to himself. When he turned 40 and wanted to slim down, he jumped on a treadmill.

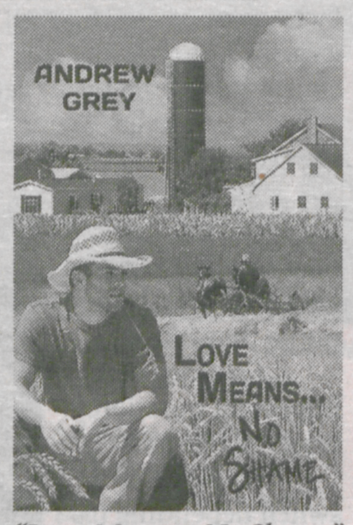
Andrew Grey

"I needed something to do besides the exercise, so I read," he says. Grey began reading what he concluded were "really bad gay romance novels." And, you guessed it, he said to himself "I can write better than this."

"Spot Me"

In two fast months of writing, while he held down his full-time day job, Grey dashed out his first story. That was in the early part of 2006. Recently he released "Love Means… No Shame," nested in a farmland setting much like Lancaster County. Another recent release, also set in central Pennsylvania, is "Spot Me."

"I follow the writer's adage to write what you know," Grey says about his work. He also developed his personal interest in mythology into book titles. In the sub-genre of men's gay romance, he's known as breaking the barrier on this topic.



"Love Means…No Shame"

"I've introduced the 'Satyr book' to readers," Grey says. Satyrs are Greek mythological creatures, a band of male companions of Pan and Dionysus roaming the woods and mountains. In mythology they are often associated with sex drive and vase-painters often portrayed them with perpetual erections.

"I won't be giving up my day job anytime soon, but this is rewarding work for me!" Grey's book are available at www.andrewgreybooks.com.

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ACA Annual Meeting Premieres Film

"You're the people who make all this happen - volunteers, donors, board members, and staff," said AIDS Community Alliance CEO Phil Goropolous. Karen's Catering hosted nearly 40 people Oct. 21 at Middletown's Harmony Hall where the audience saw the premiere screening of "Living Positive in South Central Pennsylvania: An Oral History Project," a collaborative film project between ACA and Dickenson College's J. Daniel Schubert and Gabriela Uassouf.

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